



<TRADE-EPA@ec.europa.eu

To <TRADE-EPA@ec.europa.eu>

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Sent by:

cc

<Verena.VAHLAND@ec.europa.eu>

bcc

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Subject [spam] EPA Flash News: EU and West African negotiators hold EPA meetings in Ouagadougou, 20-24 October 2008



EU and West African negotiators hold EPA meetings in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (20-24 October)

European and West African negotiators held EPA meetings at technical and senior official level in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 20 to 24 October 2008. ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions represented the West Africans. They continued negotiations over a joint EPA text and made progress in particular on the text on trade in goods which includes trade defence instruments, sanitary and phytosanitary rules, technical barriers to trade and trade facilitation.

Detailed negotiations also took place with respect to rules of origin and the EPA institutional set-up. The West Africans informed the EC that they are preparing their market access offer and aim at being ready by the next round. On the EPA development programme, the West Africans also informed the EC that they are progressing on its detailed definition and on the drafting of a chapter which will be the legal basis for development cooperation measures.

All these issues will be further discussed by West Africans at their Ministerial meeting end of October, at the next regional preparatory task force meeting in Brussels on 24-26 November 2008, and at the next negotiation round in Dakar (Senegal) on 26-30 January 2009.

For further information please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/regneg_en.htm

