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# TRADECOM II News

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF TRADECOM II PROGRAMME

## THE 7TH STEERING COMMITTEE OF TRADECOM II PROGRAMME



PAGE 3

### CARICOM

SUPPORT TO CARICOM NATIONAL STANDARDS BUREAUS AS TRADE RELATED INSTITUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE PROVISIONS OF THE CARIFORUM-EU EPA

PAGE 4

### GUINEA

SUPPORT TO IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL AND TECHNICAL CAPACITIES IN THE DRAFTING, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF GUINEA'S TRADE POLICIES. - FINAL WORKSHOP

PAGE 4

### MAURITIUS

ENHANCE THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR EXPORTING SMES IN MAURITIUS, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EPA IMPLEMENTATION

PAGE 5

### MOZAMBIQUE

TARGETED ASSISTANCE FOR EPA IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH SPS CONFORMITY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE, AND ENHANCED EXPORT CAPACITY OF FISHERIES IN MOZAMBIQUE

PAGE 6

### MAURITANIA

SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH ECOWAS AND THE EU-WEST AFRICA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA)



Bridging the digital divide: managing digitalisation and technology for inclusive growth

ROOM D5

JUNE 18, 2019 17:00 to 18:15

**UNLOCKING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES: PROMOTING E-COMMERCE FOR INCLUSIVE TRADE GROWTH**

LEAVING NO-ONE BEHIND: INVESTING IN INCLUSIVENESS OF TRADING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH E-COMMERCE IN SMALL-ISLAND AND LAND-LOCKED ACP ECONOMIES



**edd** 2019 European Development Days

## THE 7<sup>TH</sup> STEERING COMMITTEE OF TRADECOM II PROGRAMME

The 7th Steering Committee (SC) of the ACP-EU TradeCom II Programme was held at the ACP House on February 28, 2019. The Committee was chaired by Mr. Viwanou Gnassounou, Assistant Secretary-General responsible for Sustainable Economic Development and Trade at the ACP Secretariat and assisted by Mrs. Françoise Guei, the ACP Secretariat's Project Manager for the TradeCom II Programme and Mrs. Christiane Leong (Expert Multilateral Trade Issues at the ACP Secretariat),

DEVCO was represented by Mr. Philippe Jacques (Policy officer – Trade Policy and Regulation) and Mrs. Elisabetta Sartorel (Programme Manager - PSD and Aid for Trade Actions).

In attendance, were representatives of other departments of the ACP Secretariat namely Mr. Motooa Rammoneng, Intra-ACP Projects Portfolio Management and Quality Support Officer, and Mr. Edo Yao Atsu, the financial controller.

Ahmed Ndyeshobola (Team Leader of TradeCom II Programme) with the support of Mrs Paula Hippolyte Bauwens (TCII Regional Trade Expert), Mrs. Christiane Haziyo (TCII RRF Manager) and Mr. Oumar Tall (TCII Administrator) presented the activities carried out by the PMU during the period July-December 2018 and those that will be implemented for the period January 2019 to December 2020, namely the closure of Programme Estimate 1, the kick-off and the implementation of the Programme

Estimate 2 and the Rapid Response Facility, and the progress on the Grant component and the related administrative and financial issues.

In addition to the formal Steering Committee members, DEVCO and the ACP Secretariat, the meeting was also attended by representatives of the two-implementing organization of Hub&Spokes II programme namely Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (Mrs. Hary Andramboavonjy and Mr. Chekou Oussouman) and Commonwealth Secretariat (Mr. Teddy Y. Soobramanien and Lisa Rodriguez) who presented their respective activities and future workplans.

During the meeting, the various stakeholders and observers were very positive in their remarks on the Programme's activities over the period July-December 2018. Furthermore, the workplan for the period up to the end of 2020 was approved by the Steering Committee.

The Chairman, ASG Gnassounou, concluded the discussions by congratulating the work done by the PMU team, the commitment of the contractor of the Technical Assistance and the confirmed support of the EC in the implementation of the Programme.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will take place in July 2019.



## CARICOM

### SUPPORT TO CARICOM NATIONAL STANDARDS BUREAUS AS TRADE RELATED INSTITUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE PROVISIONS OF THE CARIFORUM-EU EPA



National Standards Bureaux (NSBs) and other quality improvement and control-related institutions in the Caribbean are receiving assistance in implementing technical barriers to trade (TBT) provisions to better comply with trade requirements as laid out by the World Trade Organisation agreements.

The support project is funded by TradeCom II Programme and implemented under the Rapid Response Facility and managed by the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards & Quality (CROSQ).

At the Kick-off meeting held recently in Barbados at the CROSQ's Headquarters in Baobab Towers, Warren, St. Michael, representatives of the European Union, CROSQ, the Barbados National Standards Institution, TradeCom II Programme, Quarein – the technical assistance consultants, and the CROSQ Secretariat spoke about the varying benefits of this support project.

CROSQ CEO, Mr. Deryck Omar noted that the activities under the project would allow quality institutions to better create a regional Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) guide “to gather and harmonize the disparate GRP knowledge across the Caribbean and also to enable Member States to cascade this guide into national GRP Codes of Practices (COP).”

“This ultimately will help countries in CARICOM by the adoption of a common approach to the development and implementation of technical regulations, as well as provide the grounds for a platform for formalized capacity development through training and awareness programmes”, he said. Furthermore, it is a natural complement to the CROSQ led CARICOM Regional Quality Policy (RQP) approved by the CARICOM Council of Ministers for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) in November 2017.

A new CROSQ regional TBT, Information Management System and Enquiry Point (TIE) Committee has also been formed to serve as technical support to the key experts of the project. Representatives are drawn from Barbados, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and St. Lucia, to name a few, along with Observer representatives from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat, and the Dominican Institute for Quality, the NSB of the Dominican Republic.

Cooperation Trade Policy Manager with the EU Delegation to

Barbados, CARIFORUM and the Eastern Caribbean States, Mr Adam Wisniewski expressed his pleasure at seeing yet another trade initiative forged from the TradeCom II Programme, noting that such efforts would help to bridge the gaps between the recently concluded EU-funded 10th EDF-TBT development programme, and the upcoming 11th EDF iteration.

Mr Adam Wisniewski expressed interest in seeing the advancement of areas specifically dealing with GRPs in the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations across the region as a means of both consumer protection and raising the standard of quality of goods produced or used within the region. Project manager, Mr Stephen Farquharson of CROSQ pointed out that there were many potential opportunities to be had for both governments and business that upheld the rules of international commitments made to the World Trade Organisation’s TBT and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Trade Facilitation Agreements, which includes reflective articles of engagement in the EPA.

Under this TradeCom II project, there will be support for developing guides for legislation; harmonised forms of documentation and the supply of data; training programmes for individuals in the TBT and regulatory areas and promotion of the activities through monitoring and support for the TIE Committee.

Mr. Farquharson also noted that this project would help governments to improve their efficiency and compliance with market requirements; reduce costs of providing services; enhance communication with trade-related entities; protect consumers and aid the economic wellbeing of stakeholders. Businesses, he said, would also benefit through the simplification of procedures and legal requirements; reduction of ambiguity and dissent and the development of better communication between the border/regulatory agencies and the stakeholders.

Quarein expressed their appreciation for being given the opportunity to work on this project to further aid the development of trade and quality infrastructure projects, noting that the team looked forward to a regionally inclusive, consensus based and collaborative approach on delivering the regional GRP Guide and a sample national COP derived through the same process. There is also to be an information and educational campaign to encourage use of the project outputs.



## GUINEA

### SUPPORT TO IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL AND TECHNICAL CAPACITIES IN THE DRAFTING, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF GUINEA'S TRADE POLICIES. FINAL WORKSHOP

The national workshop on “accreditation and sharing of strategies to promote Guinean exports” took place from 6 to 7 March in Conakry and brought together nearly sixty participants from ministerial departments, the private sector, civil society and some stakeholders from the hinterland. His Excellency Mr. Boubacar Barry, Minister of Trade, chaired the opening of the workshop.

This workshop is the last activity under the program “Guinea–Support to improve institutional and technical capacities in the drafting, implementation and monitoring of Guinea’s trade policies”.

The programme is the result of five requests and is based on three thematic components: (1) the development of strategies and the strengthening of export support services; (2) the capacity building for stakeholders in negotiating and monitoring trade agreements; (3) the establishment of operational management tools for non-state trade actors. It aims at:

- Developing strategies and strengthening export support services for a better access to international markets for agricultural and industrial production;

- Building the capacity of the Ministry of trade’s services to better manage trade policies and the negotiation and monitoring of trade agreements.
- Implementing operational management tools to build the capacities of private sector stakeholders, particularly women and consumers, to boost business opportunities.

This workshop comes on the heels of two other workshops held in September 2018 and February 2019 and represent one of the major activities of this project aimed at sharing the key points of the strategies developed, particularly the “National strategy for Exports Promotion”, the “sector strategy in the promotion of Cashew nut and the Fonio respectively”. The objective of this event was to collect the participants’ amendments on the proposed deliverables and, finally, to validate the documents prepared by the project team. These strategies should require stakeholders to better promote Guinean exports in order to enable the country to benefit from its participation in international trade.

## MAURITIUS

### ENHANCE THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR EXPORTING SMES IN MAURITIUS, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EPA IMPLEMENTATION

Since gaining independence in 1968, Mauritius has gone through tremendous economic and social changes and is seen as one of the most successful developing economies in Africa. From a low-income economy heavily dependent on agriculture and sugar cane in particular, Mauritius has graduated to the status of an upper-middle-income economy, with a broad range of value-added export products such as manufactured goods (e.g. textiles), jewellery, financial services, fisheries, tourism, etc. The Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) sector represents a large share of the economic activity but it accounts for a small fraction of international trade, particularly exports.

The SMEs sector in Mauritius is, nonetheless, still at an infant stage. Mauritian SMEs are currently involved mainly in the production and trading of consumer goods and services. To be part of value chains dominated by large global players, SMEs need a sound business environment, ready access to finance, and institutional support. Current shortcomings in local institutions (financial, human capital, quality management and local industry networks) limit SMEs’ export readiness and ability to benefit from opportunities for participation in global value chains.

There exists great potential for these SMEs to fully exploit the benefits of the interim EPA (i-EPA) between the European Union and four countries of the ESA group, namely Mauritius,

Madagascar, Seychelles, and Zimbabwe, signed in Mauritius at the end of August 2009 which is a major achievement in relations between this continent and the EU. To that end, these SMEs need to be provided with the relevant expertise which will help them develop their capacity to the fullest possible and take full advantage of the openness of the EU market.

This project, implemented under the Rapid Response Facility of the TradeCom II Programme, will carry out a number of activities aimed at strengthening the business and trade development capabilities of the Mauritian SMEs. It will Develop a framework for sustainability of the business and development capabilities of the Mauritian SMEs, with the following results:

- A simplified national quality strategy is developed;
- Training of the selected 32 SMEs on export development and sustaining competitiveness undertaken;
- A pool of local facilitators for enhancing the business development capabilities of SMEs is trained;
- Framework for monitoring and improvement of the SME trade support programmes developed.

The period of implementation of the project will be 6 months from February 2019.

## MOZAMBIQUE

### TARGETED ASSISTANCE FOR EPA IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH SPS CONFORMITY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE, AND ENHANCED EXPORT CAPACITY OF FISHERIES IN MOZAMBIQUE

This support programme is aimed to contribute to improving the macroeconomic performance of Mozambique through effective integration in its regional and international export markets for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

The support programme is being implemented under the third cluster of TradeCom II activities, which focuses on Strengthening Trade Facilitation and Competitiveness. It is the result of bundling of requests received from the Ministry of Sea, Inland Water and Fisheries; National Institute for Fish Inspection; and the Ministry of Industry and Trade - National Institute for Standards and Quality.

After its independence, Mozambique traversed a number of challenges going from civil war to sluggish economic growth. However, since the mid-1990s Mozambique has registered remarkable achievements in economic terms making it one of the fastest growing African economies, with over 8 % annual growth rate. This, however, has not erased the reality of high poverty and high indebtedness. There is still much road to be covered in terms of poverty reduction and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Today the European Union is one of Mozambique's largest trading partners; Mozambique is part of Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) regional configuration for the economic partnership agreement (EPA) with the EU.

The SADC, which recently became the first African EPA region to be fully operational. Under the SADC-EU EPA, Mozambique is able to have full duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market for its fisheries exports. Many other markets are available for fisheries imports as a result of diminishing fisheries production worldwide. However, Mozambique's fisheries industry faces several challenges which need to be addressed to strengthen the economy and its export performance.

These challenges include strengthening regional integration and linkages to increase utilization of the inherent high market access. Despite the high market access available in the regional and international markets, the utilization is relatively poor. This is partially due to weak market intelligence and in-market support for these markets. Lack of market information and market surveys makes it challenging for exporters to increase penetration in these markets.

This support programme is oriented to improve and facilitate the expansion and diversification of Mozambique's fish and aquaculture production and export potential developing the national standardisation strategy for the fisheries sector and support the implementation of the SADC-EU EPA in Mozambique with regard to the Fisheries sector. The results of the supporting programme will be:

- 📍 regulatory and institutional capacity to meet international and regional standards for fisheries products enhanced;
- 📍 export competitiveness potential of fisheries and aquaculture sector strengthened;
- 📍 a national strategy for standardization and conformity assessment developed;
- 📍 the capacity to manage certification and standardization processes enhancing;
- 📍 roadmap for ISO 17020 and ISO 22000 accreditation processes developed and implementation supported;
- 📍 Fisheries industries to meet the international Standard ISO 22000;
- 📍 capacity to implement trade in fisheries within the framework of the EPA enhanced;
- 📍 Enhanced trade facilitation framework for fisheries and aquaculture developed.

These results will be achieved through several activities, namely:

- 📍 Preparing training manuals to assist in identification of fisheries and aquaculture health concerns, along with recommendations for treatment or solutions ;
- 📍 Improving monitoring of fisheries and aquaculture-related quality and health issues ;
- 📍 Reviewing and updating the legal framework on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures in place for Fisheries-related exports ;
- 📍 Preparing a Good Practice Guide and conduct relevant trainings on strengthening competitiveness and expanding fisheries and aquaculture production in Mozambique ;
- 📍 Drafting a fisheries compliance manual providing requirements for Fisheries Export and EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary requirements for Fisheries and Aquaculture products.

Implementation of this support project started in February 2019 for a period of twelve months.

## MAURITANIA

SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH ECOWAS AND THE EU-WEST AFRICA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA)

The Association Agreement with ECOWAS gives Mauritania and its companies, access to a market of 380 million inhabitants and is also a tool to improve the business environment and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

By entering into Association Agreements with ECOWAS, Mauritania must not only align itself with the CET (Common External Tariff), but also with ECOWAS customs policies, including other common policies. The challenge for Mauritania is to understand, fully, the implications of the CET, rules of origin, the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme, customs valuation, to enable the development and strengthening the emerging sectors and to seize the opportunities offered by a better access to the ECOWAS market and by the regional Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union signed by the West African States (ECOWAS + Mauritania).

The objective of this project is to strengthen Mauritania's capacity to facilitate the implementation of appropriate trade policies with ECOWAS and within the framework of the EPA.

Particularly, the results of this project aim to:

- Understand and optimise EPA business opportunities through the organisation of training sessions for members of the National EPA Committee within the

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, which will focus on:

- ✓ The Implementation of the reforms and trade disciplines resulting from the Economic Partnership Agreement strengthening of achievements;
- ✓ How to maintain Mauritania's advantages in the export of certain commodities;
- ✓ Technical and phytosanitary standards issued by the EU.
- Build capacities for the alignment of all Mauritanian tariffs with the ECOWAS CET through the training of relevant administrations and the private sector on:
  - ✓ The Trade Liberalisation System (TLS);
  - ✓ The TEC and its supported measures
  - ✓ Rules of origin and safeguard measures

The estimated duration of the project is 6 months from February 2019.

## Glossary

<b>ACP</b>	Africa Caribbean and Pacific	<b>TBT</b>	Technical Barriers to Trade
<b>CARIFORUM</b>	Caribbean Forum	<b>TFTA</b>	Tripartite Free Trade Area
<b>COMESA</b>	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	<b>TRA</b>	Trade-Related Assistance
<b>CTA</b>	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation	<b>TRIPS</b>	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
<b>DG DEVCO</b>	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development	<b>TPP</b>	Trans-Pacific Partnership
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community	<b>TPF</b>	Trade Policy Framework
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States	<b>TTIP</b>	Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
<b>EDD</b>	European Development Days	<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>EPA</b>	Economic Partnership Agreement	<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>WAEMU</b>	West African Economic and Monetary Union
<b>FTA</b>	Free Trade Area	<b>WCO</b>	World Customs Organisation
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre	<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Countries		
<b>NAMA</b>	Non-Agricultural Market Access		
<b>NTB</b>	Non-Tariff barriers		
<b>NTPF</b>	National Trade Policy Framework		
<b>OECS</b>	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States		
<b>OIF</b>	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie		
<b>PACPs</b>	Pacific ACP States		
<b>PIFs</b>	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat		
<b>PMU</b>	Programme Management Unit		
<b>RCEP</b>	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership		
<b>RTA</b>	Regional Trade Agreement		
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community		
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable development goals		
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises		
<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary		

**TRADECOM** PROGRAMME

BUILDING ACP TRADE CAPACITY  
RENFORCER LES CAPACITÉS COMMERCIALES DES ACP

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