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THE SECOND TRADECOM II STEERING COMMITTEE



The second Steering Committee (SC) of the ACP-EU TradeCom II Programme was held at the ACP House on February 8, 2017. 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 Mr. Morgan Githinji, the ACP Secretariat's Project Manager for the TradeCom II Programme.



DEVCO was represented by Mr. Antti Karhunen (Head of Unit of Private Framework Development, Trade, Regional Integration), Mr. Egon Hovnikar (Head of Sector - Regional Programmes Sub-Saharan Africa and ACP) and Mr. Koen Rossel-Cambier (Programme Manager - Economics and Trade related assistance).

In attendance Mrs. Christiane Leong (Expert Multilateral Trade Issues at the ACP Secretariat), and 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.



In addition to the formal Steering Committee members, DEVCO and the ACP Secretariat, the meeting was also attended, as observers, by representatives of the twoimplementing organization of Hub&Spokes II programme namely Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (Mr. Chekou OUSSOUMAN - OIF Secretariat) and Commonwealth Secretariat (Mr. Teddy Y. SOOBRAMANIEN - ComSec) who presented their respective activities and future workplans. The meeting was also attended by the Team Leader of the ACP-EU TBT Programme Mr. Junior Lodge who also presented the "good" lessons learnt in the implementation of the TBT programme.



During the meeting, the various stakeholders and observers were very positive in their remarks on the Programme's activities over the period July-December 2016. Furthermore, the workplan for the period up to the end of the Programme Estimate 1 was approved by the Steering Committee.

The Chairman 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. Finally, ASG Gnassounou closed the meeting by inviting the PMU of the TradeCom II Programme to present the state of the art of the programme implementation as well as the activities carried out on the ground during the ACP Sub-Committee on Trade meeting in March.



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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

SUPPORT TO SELECTED PACPS TO STRENGTHEN TRADE FACILITATION AND PRIVATE SECTOR COMPETITIVENESS

This is a project designed by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the four Pacific ACP member states (PACP): Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Federal State of Micronesia and Samoa.

The Pacific-ACP (PACP) region is comprised of 15 small island developing states – Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. These island countries face trade challenges of small size, both in terms of population and domestic markets, distance from key markets of 11,500 kilometres, limited export opportunities and poor infrastructure for trade. Regional economic and trade integration is important to ensure the region's ability to grow and prosper, and particularly underpins most countries' ability to participate in the global economy. This is supported by the reality that without improved revenue from trade, countries have few options to improve their socio-economic development and create better lives for their communities.

The project is designed to provide a range of highly specialized technical services to the four PACP countries under two main components: Trade Facilitation and Private Sector Competitiveness.

In the context of fostering trade facilitation and strengthening the private sector competitiveness, the areas of intervention contemplated under this project are three.

The first support area will assess the adequacy and robustness of the Customs data collection instruments in the Republic of Marshall Island (RMI):

- Assessing the robustness and adequacy of RMI customs data collection instruments, and trade data;
- Reviewing the current legislative framework and existing commodity classification procedures, processes and official forms for recording trade commodity information in RMI;
- ✤ Drafting required legal provisions to amend the RMI legislative framework to incorporate the implementation of the HS commodity classification nomenclature and the relevant regulations, procedures, processes and official forms where commodity classification is recorded;

Developing a national tariff schedule (with national splits) according to the 2012 and 2017 editions of the HS nomenclature (HS 2012 and HS 2017).

The second area is aimed to assess the viability and management implication of implementing an electronic single window in Kiribati:

- Conducting a comprehensive appraisal of the viability of the single window including an economic and technical feasibility, and an assessment of the current legal and institutional environment;
- Identifying solutions based on the findings and recommend best practice model for a Single Window System based on the WCO Guidelines;
- Preparing a detailed implementation plan and budget for implementation of a Single Window System including the inherent legal framework and submit them to the Kiribati Customs Administration for validation.

The third area will enhance the business environment for Exporting SMEs in the Federal States of Micronesia and Samoa strengthening the technical regulatory framework in the two targeted countries (FSM and Samoa):

- Reviewing the policy, legislative, and institutional regulatory framework in Samoa and FSM (such as legislation on SPS measures);
- Improving Market Access of SMEs, through training on standards and conformity assessment procedures and assisting selected companies with the implementation of the selected standards for certification;
- Developing a guide on "Managing Quality" to sensitize stakeholders on quality, standards and technical regulations, SPS and the related-services available in Samoa and FSM;
- Oisseminating the results among the key stakeholders.

SUPPORT TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL SINGLE ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENT (SAD) AND CAPACITY BUILDING ON CUSTOMS VALUATIONS FOR CARIFORUM COUNTRIES

This project is designed by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the The CARICOM Secretariat and CARIFORUM Directorate.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is a regional grouping comprising fifteen developing states of the Caribbean. The Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) is, on the other hand, a base for economic and trade dialogue with the European Union. Its membership comprises the Caribbean Community states, and the Dominican Republic.

The CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was signed in October 2008 and came into force two months later. The Agreement covers trade in goods and services, investment, trade-related issues like competition, innovation and intellectual property, as well as links to development co-operation,

TRADECOMI PROGRAMME BUILDING ACP TRADE CAPACITY RENFORCER LES CAPACITES COMMERCIALES DES ACP

thus combining trade provisions and development co-operation.

The CARIFORUM-EU EPA requires promotion of regional integration and the progressive development of systems to facilitate the electronic exchange of data among traders, customs administrators and related agencies and the implementation of a CARIFORUM SAD. The EPA trading obligations require that all CARICOM/CARIFORUM Member States use an identical SAD. The development of a SAD also falls under the thematic strategy to accelerate implementation and use of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, with a principal measure to address the constraints to intra-regional trade with a view to increasing the level of intra-CARICOM trade.

The purposes of this project are:

Support the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and CARIFORUM States through capacity building on customs valuations and administrations in the application of the principles and procedures of the SAD.

Under these purposes the activities of this project contribute to:

- the assessment of the existing SADs or other similar documents currently in use in CARIFORUM States;
- The drafting and consideration of the SAD set under the World Customs Organization's Data Model Version 3.6 by the CARICOM Secretariat, CARIFORUM Directorate and their respective countries;
- the enhancement and reinforcement of the capacity of the staff of the CARICOM / CARIFORUM Custom Administrations;
- The presentation for consideration by the beneficiaries of the new SAD for use in the CARICOM Member States and CARIFORUM Countries.

CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT TO THE MSG SECRETARIAT AND TO ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE REGION'S TRADE FACILITATION SERVICES

This project is designed by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat and the four Pacific ACP member states (PACP): namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The French Pacific territory of New Caledonia is also a member of the MSG.

The MSG Secretariat was established with the purpose of, inter alia, promoting and strengthening inter-membership trade, economic and technical cooperation between states and the alignment of policies in order to further MSG members' shared goals of economic growth, and sustainable development. In line with the above goals to build a regional integration foundation, the MSG members negotiated a free trade agreement (MSGTA), which entered into force in 1993 (Comprising PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu; Fiji became a party to the MSGTA in 1996). The aim of this agreement was to promote and accelerate economic development through closer trade relations and to establish a framework for consultations and periodic review of the MSGTA.

The MSGTA signed in 1993 was reviewed in 2004 and in 2005 members agreed to a revised MSGTA, referred to as MSGTA2, the second edition of the MSG Trade Agreement.

The project's activities are designed to support the beneficial integration of the four MSG States into the world economy through, inter alia, enhancing the operational efficiency of the MSG Secretariat, and by extension the trading capacity of its PACPS member states. The areas of intervention contemplated under this project are three.

The first support area is to identify the bottlenecks limiting the efficiency of the MSG Secretariat's Trade related divisions and enhance its capacity to monitor intra-regional and international trade through the:

- elaboration of a gap analyses for MSG Secretariat's trade division's capacity to monitor regional and international trade plus training needs assessment based on the gap analysis;
- design of a Manual Guide for strengthening the MSG Secretariat's Trade Division;
- On-the-job training for key staff of the MSG Secretariat's Trade Division.

The second area will identify air and shipping transport connectivity bottlenecks among the MSG countries recommending suitable trade facilitation improvements:

- Indertaking an operational and cost effective assessment of the MSG air transportation sector and making recommendations for air transport connectivity improvements within the MSG region;
- consulting with stakeholders on the key elements of the assessment and the recommendations for improvements;
- Preparing implementable recommendations on the recent Shipping Study and suitable trade facilitation improvements.

The third support area will improve the access to trade-related tools and the sharing of trade information through the:

- design, operationalization and dissemination of the on-line Business Directory platform;
- Observation of the regional data on trading opportunities;
- organisation of a regional training/validation/dissemination workshop on trading opportunities.

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NEWS

TARGETED SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIFORUM-EPA



The Inception Meeting to launch project implementation was held at the CARICOM Secretariat in GUYANA. Key experts, Andrea Ewart and Tim Little participated in this meeting, which was also attended by the Director General of the CARIFORUM Directorate, Mr. Percival Marie. Mr. Marie's participation served to highlight the importance of this project to the Directorate while underscoring the request to address aspects of the Technical Offer and fine-tune the scope of activities.

At the end of the 1st field mission carried out by both Key Experts, a Draft Inception Report was submitted on January 24. After having incorporated the results of in-depth and continuous discussions with the Beneficiary, the final Revised Inception Report was submitted on 28th of February and approved by both TradeCom II and the Beneficiary on March 2, 2017.

Out of those discussions the Project Work Plan has been developed with all project target dates, and a detailed Mission Schedule that provides for the experts to support a total of thirteen (13) consultations, in person and by video conference.

SUPPORT TO PIFS TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR MAINSTREAMING TPF AND OVERALL TRADE AGENDA IN THE PACIFIC REGION, AND TO NIUE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS TPF

TradeCom II, on February 9, 2017 awarded a contract to International Economics Consulting in consortium with Cardnofor the implementation of a Targeted Support to PIFS to build capacity for Mainstreaming Trade Policy Frameworks (TPFs) and overall Trade Agenda in the Pacific Region, and to Niue for the Implementation of its TPF.

The project activities will be performed in Fiji at the PIF Secretariat and in Niue.

The project has a two-fold purposes: Support the PIFS' trade mainstreaming agenda for the PACPS through the effective use of the NTPFs; and support the Government of Niue to implement its NTPF, and use that case as a "good practice" for the PACPS in their implementation of respective NTPFs.

The project contributes to promote the PAPCs trade mainstreaming agenda and the NTPFs; to support the implementation of Niue's National Trade Policy Framework; and the good practice case of Niue demonstrated for the PACPS in their implementation of respective NTPFs.

The Project interventions will focus on reinforcing the Regional guidelines on trade mainstreaming and enhancing the capacities of trade experts to implement the NTPFs; Strengthening PACPS National institutional structures (National Trade Committees and related departments/agencies) for implementing the NTPFs; Designing action plans to implement Niue's NTPF recommendations including accession to FTAs; Strengthening Niue's institutions for trade governance; and Identifying key reforms of customs-related legislation and regulations.

TARGETED SUPPORT TO THE EAC FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRIPARTITE FTA AGREEMENT-TRADE POLICY AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT TO THE EU MARKET



TradeCom II signed the contract with the consortium of International Economics Consulting Ltd. and Cardno for the provision of Targeted Support to the EAC for the Implementation of the Tripartite FTA Agreement-Trade Policy and Export Development to the EU Market on February 22, 2016.

The geographical area to be covered by the Project is the EAC member states namely: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan.

The direct beneficiary of this action will be the Directorate of Trade and Customs at the EAC and the six EAC Member States who will benefit from this action in particular through the improved delivery of legal and technical assistance provided by the Directorate of Trade and Customs.

The project is framed within a longer-term perspective, and planned with a view to achieve a two-fold purposes: to develop a framework for the Elimination of NTBs; and foster trade development and expansion under the Tripartite FTA and trading opportunities with the EU.

Main intervention areas are to support the EAC Directorate of Customs and Trade to effectively implement the EAC Non-Tariff Barriers Act and the simplified Trade Regime (STR) related NTBs; to support the development of the long-term export promotion strategy (2017-2030); to develop a strategy for continuous engagement with the business community (including women and youth entrepreneurs) over the trading opportunities in the TFTA and EU markets; and to support the enhancement of knowledge sharing on the opportunities and benefits of the TFTA and other trade agreements, and trading opportunities with the EU.

In implementing the project the Consortium will produce four sets of outputs: develop and operationalize the regulations for the implementation of the NTB Act, to improve the monitoring of the implementation of the framework for elimination of NTBs; long-term EAC export Promotion Strategy for the period 2017-2030 designed; and trading opportunities and benefits under the Tripartite for business communities including women and youth entrepreneurs promoted.



SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WEST AFRICA-EU EPA AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A DISPUTE SETTLEMENT REGIONAL FRAMEWORK



TradeCom II awarded the contract to the consortium composed by DMI Associates and DMI Africa for Support for the implementation of the West Africa-EU EPA and the implementation of a Dispute Settlement Regional Framework on February 9, 2017

The project cover the 15 countries of ECOWAS (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria and The Gambia), in addition to Mauritania, which is no longer a member of the regional organization but negotiated the EPA within it.

The main beneficiaries of the project interventions (training and awareness-raising activities on the EPA) are experts from ECOWAS, and WAEMU, parliamentarians from the 16 countries mentioned above, as well as civil society and major actors of the private sector.

This project has a two-fold purposes: To create a better understanding of the EPA and its ownership by all the stakeholders (parliamentarians, ECOWAS / WAEMU experts, private sector and the civil society); and to establish a regional legal framework in dispute settlement for resolving trade disputes and to ensure that trade agreements are enforced and settled.

The Project contributes to strengthen the capacity of the ECOWAS / WAEMU experts to raise awareness to the community citizens and monitor the effective implementation of the West Africa - EU EPA; strengthen the capacity of the ECOWAS parliamentarians to improve the ownership of the EPA in order to fast-track the ratification process; and establish a regional legal framework for settling trade disputes.

In the light of the above the Intervention areas of the project are: the development of EPA training modules to be used by the ECOWAS/ WAEMU experts to sensitize the community citizens on the agreement; design and delivery a capacity building programme of ECOWAS/WAEMU experts, the civil society and the parliamentarians as well as the development of a manual of procedures governing the settlement of disputes in West Africa; the establishment of a legal framework for a proper implementation of trade agreements in the region; and design and delivery a specific capacity building programme for legal officials of the ECOWAS commission, jurists and lawyers in order to create a pool of expertise in dispute settlement in the region.

TARGETED SUPPORT TO THE ACP GROUP IN GENEVA TO STRENGTHEN THE GROUP'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO)

TradeCom II signed the contract with SAANA Consulting on February 22, 2016. SAANA Consulting will provide technical assistance to Strengthen the ACP Group's Participation in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the WTO.

The project has been developed following a request from the Secretariat of the ACP Group and the ACP Group in Geneva. The ACP Group is composed by 61 WTO members, 7 WTO observers, 11 Non WTO members or observers. In Geneva there are 55 Member States Missions and 25 non-resident Missions. ACP also has Collaborating Partners based in Geneva—the Organization of Eastern and Caribbean States (OECS), Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). The ACP Group in Geneva participates in the multilateral trade negotiations (under the WTO) as a formal coalition, harmonising and defending common trade negotiating positions. It covers all WTO issues, particularly: Agriculture, TRIPS, NAMA, Services, Rules, etc.

The project activities will be managed in coordination with the ACP Office in Geneva, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

The project has a two-fold purposes: To empower ACP Delegations in Geneva to participate effectively in trade negotiations/deliberations in the WTO; and guide ACP delegates to participate in the drafting of legal text/elements for incorporation in the outcome of the WTO negotiations.

The Project contributes to empower ACP Delegations in Geneva to participate effectively in trade negotiations/deliberations in the WTO; guide ACP delegates to participate in the drafting of legal text/ elements for incorporation in the outcome of the WTO negotiations; and ensure that ACP Group's positions are fully reflected in the legal text and outcome of the 2017 11th Ministerial Conference.

Intervention areas foreseen by this project are to ensure the effective participation of the ACP negotiating team in the negotiating process so that the ACP interests in the negotiations will be strongly advanced and defended, to elaborate concrete trade negotiating positions on the five thematic and other areas of the WTO negotiations (agriculture, WTO rules, non-agricultural market access, Special and Differential Treatment, services); and to ensure that ACP Group's positions are fully reflected in the legal text and outcome of the 2017 11th Ministerial Conference.





eudevdays.eu 2017

The European Development Days (EDD) are Europe's leading forum on international cooperation and development. Organised by the European Commission, the forum brings the development community together to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire innovative solution and new partnerships for the world's most pressing challenges.

The eleventh edition of the European Development Days (EDD 2017) will take place in Tour & taxis on June 7-8, 2017 in Brussels, Belgium.

Investing in Development is the focus of this year's forum, highlighting the importance to increase and improve investments with the objective of achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and creating decent jobs for all. Under the main thread of Investing in Development, the EDD 2017 agenda will be framed under

Glossary

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

three major themes emerging as key priorities in today's current context: Investing in People and Planet, Investing in Prosperity and Investing in Peace and Partnerships.

In the spirit of cooperation, TradeCom II Programme, the EU-ACP Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), and the EU-ACP Technical Barriers to Trade Programme (TBT) jointly submitted three high-level panel proposals on pressing development issues in ACP countries such as African Traditional Medicines in the Global Value Chain, Investment Opportunities to Empower ACPs as the World's Next Emerging Economy and Inclusive Trade through Simplified Trade Regimes.

Submissions are now being evaluated and the EDD Team will announce the programme of EDD 2017 early April.

Upcoming events



Joint ACP-EU Subcommittee on Trade and Cooperation Brussels, 07 March 2017

ACP Subcommittee on Trade and Commodities Brussels, 09 March 2017

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