

TRADECOM II NEWS

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF **TRADECOM II PROGRAMME**

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BOOSTING INVESTMENTS FOR ACP INCLUSIVE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Harnessing investment opportunities to empower ACP's as the World's Next Emerging Economy



TCII: STATE OF PLAY

ACP SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE AND COMMODITIES



During the meeting of the ACP Sub-committee on Trade and Commodities, that was held at ACP House in Brussels the 7th April 2017, the TradeCom II Programme was invited to present the state of the art of the Programme implementation as well as the activities carried out in the beneficiary ACP countries.

Mr. Ndyeshobola, Team Leader of TradeComII Programme gave a presentation on the state of play of the Programme implementation. His presentation showed the huge number of Project Requests (220 in total) that were received from ACP beneficiaries. These were processed and bundled into implementable larger programmes (85), with the exception of a few project requests that did not meet the acceptance criteria.

A number of these programmes (23) are currently being implemented under the Programme Estimate 1 (PE1) that fully commits this envelope. The goal is to implement the remaining programmes under the Programme Estimate 2. Mr. Ndyeshobola gave as well an overview of the state of play of the Grant Component.

During the meeting, the ACP delegates were very positive in their remarks on the Programme’s activities and on 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 TradeCom II Programme.



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

CARIFORUM-EU EPA

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

During the month of April the following programme activities were implemented by the TAT:

Legislation to provide for reciprocal market access for services. Following the consultations held in March with the States, the five draft model bills have been updated and sent to the Beneficiary for circulation to the States to conduct national consultations. Each of them have been accompanied by an Explanatory Memorandum and a Guide to Enactment. The workshop to validate the draft bills has been re-scheduled to the week of 5th June, 2017. The Beneficiary raised concern about the unavailability of key trade officials for the initially planned dates (8-10 May), therefore a rescheduling was deemed necessary.

Intra-CARIFORUM Mutual Recognition Agreement for Architects. A regional consultation on international recognition arrangements for architectural services was held by video conference on April 4, 2017. The Team Leader participated from Guyana as part of her activities during Mission II. The States concluded that the priority need is for the Consultant to draft an intra-CARICOM MRA.

The same activities need to be completed with respect to an intra-CARICOM MRA for architects, as an interim step towards accomplishing the DR-CARICOM MRA. The Team Leader held a follow-up consultation with CAMRAC on 21 April, 2017. The workshop to validate the MRA has been re-scheduled to the week of 5th, June, 2017.

Transposition of EPA Tariff Schedule to provide for reciprocal market access for goods. Work continues on updating the EPA tariff schedule from HS 2002 to HS 2017. The Consultant participated in the regional meeting on the transposition of the harmonised commodity description and coding system in the

EPA. The Team Leader presented on the issues to be addressed during the transposition exercise and the planned approaches. To support the work of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on this issue, the Consultant also developed a timeline of expected activities. A regional meeting on the transposition of the harmonized commodity description and coding system in the EPA was held by video conference on April 3, 2017.

Validation of Data for WTO Transparency Mechanism. The WTO Secretariat has, on its own responsibility, prepared a draft "Factual Presentation on the Economic Partnership Agreement between the CARIFORUM States and the European Union". Prior to circulating to WTO Members, the WTO Secretariat has asked that CARIFORUM States address a number of questions raised throughout the document, also repeating its request for the trade data needed to complete charts that are essential to the document. A response is requested by 12th May.

To address this urgent issue, the EPA Implementation Unit has decided to expand, with the support of TA team, hold a video conference of the States on 16-17th, May to both validate the trade data and to address the questions raised in the WTO draft Factual Presentation.

Preparation of Public Education Materials: In consultation with the Beneficiary during Mission II, the Team Leader developed a draft work plan for this project component. Pending approval of the work plan, a first contribution has been drafted.

Design of EPA Monitoring System/Review of EPA Implementation Roadmap: The newly-recruited Non-Key Expert has been briefed by the Team Leader, held consultations with the Beneficiary and outlined a methodological note to fill the gap on these activities as was envisaged in the Inception Report.

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC)

INCEPTION PHASE

The month of April was devoted to the inception phase and preparation for implementation of the programme. The focus of some activities foreseen in the Terms of Reference (ToR) were recalibrated in line with changes in the programme context and the needs of the key beneficiaries. The Inception Report (IR), a key document laying out the way forward for the implementation of the programme, was submitted on 11 April 2017 for review.

Overall the programme is on track and we foresee no major readjustments with respect to the programme's implementation schedule. The main activities undertaken by the team in April

included, consultations with key EAC technical staff, private sector associations and a select number of Ugandan trade-related entities, i.e. Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MITC), Uganda Export Board (UEB), Ministry of East African Community Affairs (MEAC). The implementation activities also included research and desk work, as well as preparatory work for all proposed, 'clusters' of activities, such as preparation of report templates, draft questionnaires, planning of activities, etc. The month of May will be a critical month for advancing the programme implementation and initiation of key actions.

FOCUS ON PMU ACTIVITIES

STATE OF PLAY OF "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" COMPONENT

266
TOTAL PROJECT REQUESTS

232
PROJECTS ACCEPTED

BUNDLED INTO:

85
PROGRAMMES

6
PROJECTS
WITHDRAWN /
REFORMULATED

28
PROJECTS
REJECTED

81
PROJECTS
UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

BUNDLED INTO:
23
PROGRAMMES

2
PROJECTS WITHDRAWN

2
PROGRAMMES

140+
PROJECTS
FOR IMPLEMENTATION
UNDER PE2 (MAY 2018)

BUNDLED INTO:
60+
PROGRAMMES

PROGRAMMES' DISTRIBUTION PER "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" OBJECTIVES

CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRADE INSTITUTIONS STRENGTHENED



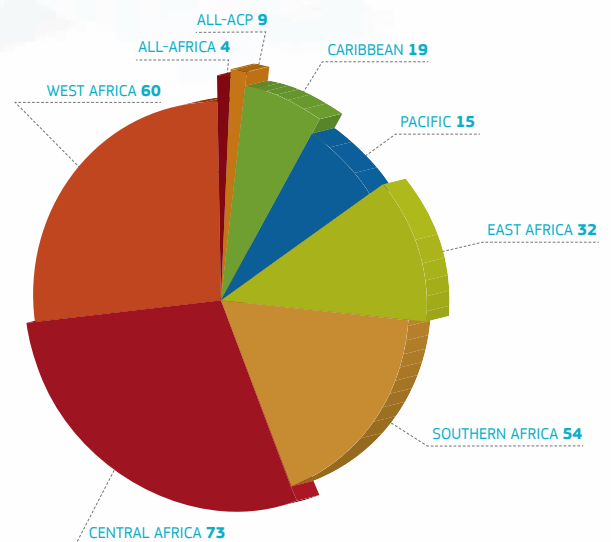
TRADE NEGOTIATION CAPACITIES OF ACP BENEFICIARIES STRENGTHENED & AGREEMENTS IMPLEMENTED



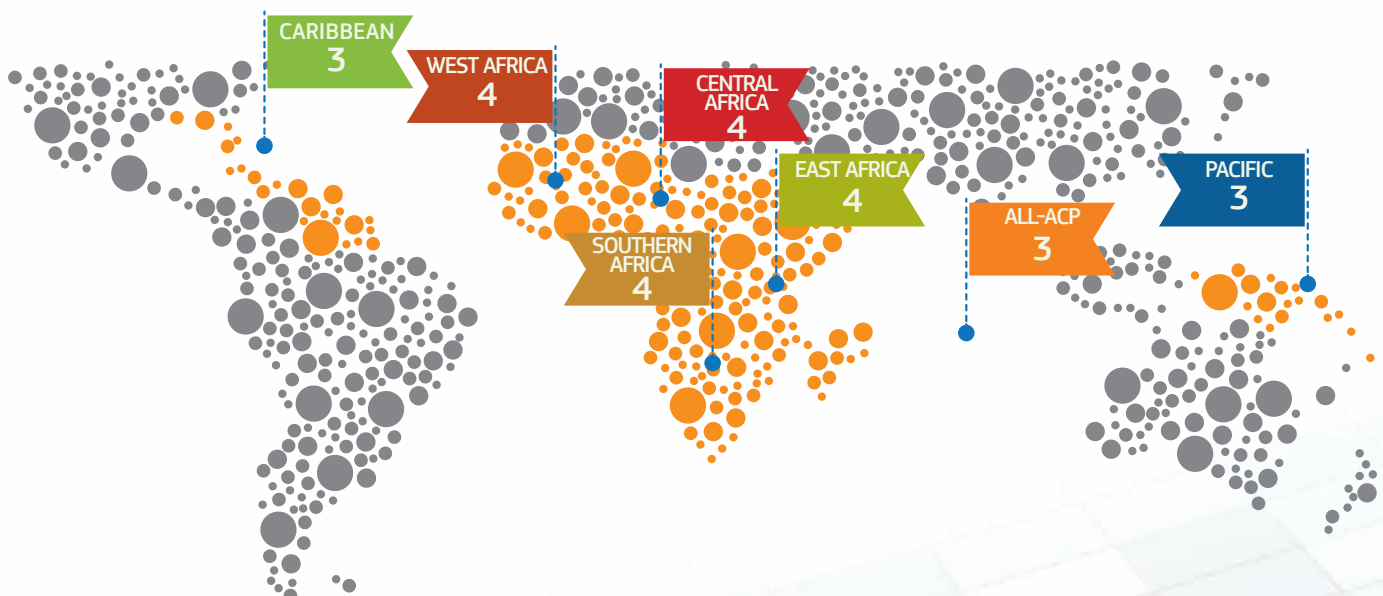
TRADE FACILITATION & COMPETITIVENESS STRENGTHENED



REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF REQUESTS



REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



ZAMBIA

SUPPORT TO THE ZAMBIA'S MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY FOR LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

This programme is designed by TCII in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI) of Zambia.

The Trade Support Programmes of the Government of Zambia are implemented under the five-year National Development Plans which are guided by the country's Vision 2030 of becoming a "prosperous middle-income country by 2030". In line with the current National Development Plan, Zambia has maintained a trade and industrial policy aimed at enhancing productivity and competitiveness of Zambian products in both the domestic and international markets.

At regional level, Zambia maintains a liberal trade regime with nearly all tariffs eliminated on a reciprocal basis within the frameworks of the SADC and COMESA Free Trade Areas (FTAs). Zambia has continued to pursue initiatives directed at reducing barriers to trade, including through participation in the tripartite online non-tariff barriers monitoring mechanism. Zambia is also actively implementing measures to simplify procedures for cross border traders, through COMESA's Simplified Trade Regime and the World Bank's Cross Border Trade Charter.

Additionally, Zambia is participating in negotiations under the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) and the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) as part of national efforts to expand markets and to enhance benefits from greater regional integration.

SENEGAL

SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE FACILITATION REFORMS

This programme was designed by the Tradecom II Programme and comprises four (4) individual projects.

Senegal's trade policy depends on the various international agreements and treaties which Senegal has signed. As a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Senegal has substantially liberalised its trade regime. However, the country still faces difficulties implementing some Agreements (SPS, TBT) and does not benefit from the advantages offered by trade preferences.

Senegal is a member of the African Union, ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union, and benefits from GSP trade concessions from Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the United States and 7 Eastern European countries, South Korea, India, China and Morocco.

Unfortunately, the country does not take full advantage of these opportunities due to constraints related to:

- 🌐 Weak implementation of these preferences due to an inadequate mastery and inefficient monitoring of the ministries concerned, especially foreign trade, as well as lack of synergy between the various SMEs support structures, inadequate communication between these support structures and the department of foreign trade.
- 🌐 A low and poorly diversified supply of exportable goods and

Zambia's trade performance during the last years has seen an improvement in exports and investment flows. Hence, the major focus of policy interventions includes: export promotion, investment promotion and trade facilitation as well as diversification, enhancing domestic trade and competition, and enhancing market access for Zambian products and services.

To that end, the areas of intervention contemplated under this programme will contribute to:

- 🌐 Strengthen the legal and regulatory environment on trade remedies;
- 🌐 Enhance the institutional capacity in trade negotiations and implementation through the design and implementation of a tailor-made capacity building programme for key national stakeholders and a guide on position on WTO and i-EPA implementation as well as regional trade negotiations developed and shared with the national authorities;
- 🌐 Develop a Strategy Document to assist Zambia in the diversification of the mining sector into new fields (gold and gemstones).

services: low supply capacity of stakeholders, inadequate supply-related infrastructure, especially production lanes and storage, packaging and local products processing infrastructure, etc.

- 🌐 Weak access to foreign markets: inadequate market access infrastructure and tools, logistics for the exportable supply and trade promotions on target markets, weak capacity of stakeholders regarding foreign market access, poor mastery of market intelligence, weak professionalization of actors, weak organisation of export companies and support structures.

This project builds on four thematic components: trade facilitation (1) fishery subsidies (2) trade defence instruments (3) and the trade in services (4).

The full implementation of this project requires the organisation of various activities geared towards:

- 🌐 Building the capacities of the Trade Facilitation Sub-Committee (TFSC) to ensure the implementation of the trade facilitation Agreement in Senegal;
- 🌐 Analysing fishery subsidies and aligning Senegal with the rules and policies of the WTO;
- 🌐 Optimising Senegal's use of trade defence instruments.

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European Commission

eudevdays.eu

7-8 June 2017

Brussels

Glossary

- ACP** Africa Caribbean and Pacific
- CARIFORUM** Caribbean Forum
- COMESA** Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
- CTA** 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

Upcoming events



- WTO - Committee on Market Access**
Geneva, 02 May
- European Development Days - EDD17**
Brussels, 07 June
- WTO - Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights**
Brussels, 13 June
- DG TRADE**
International forum on women and trade
Brussels, 20 June

MAY/JUNE



BUILDING ACP TRADE CAPACITY
RENFORCER LES CAPACITES COMMERCIALES DES ACP

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