

# TRADECOM II NEWS

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AND THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ACP-EU JOINT MINISTERIAL TRADE COMMITTEE

## 19<sup>TH</sup> ACP MTC

In order to prepare for the ACP-EU JMTC, a meeting of the ACP Senior Officials responsible for trade matters, was held on 5 – 6 December 2016 in the ACP House in Brussels. Their report was considered and agreed by the 19<sup>th</sup> ACP Ministerial Trade Committee (ACP MTC) on 7 – 8 December 2016 and the key issues presented and discussed at the ACP-EU JMTC on December 9 2016.

The agenda of the 19<sup>th</sup> ACP MTC was built to first provide a state of play and steps of the EPAs in particular on the ratification of the completed negotiations and the implementation of the agreements reached including a discussion of the support required to ensure that EPAs derive the expected benefits for the ACP parties.

Key points in the agenda were:

- the ACP-EU Trade regime issues (such as Brexit, Non-Tariff Measures, Commodities, Fisheries, EU negotiations with third parties);
- the Digital Economy and its great potential in creating new opportunities, empowering women and youth and traditionally disadvantaged communities;
- the discussion on a preliminary strategy for ACP Group's participation at the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (WTO MC11);
- the state of play of Tripartite and Continental Free Trade Areas.
- the understanding of the Pan-EU list of non-cooperative tax jurisdiction (the new EU listing process to identify and address third country jurisdictions that fail to comply with tax good governance standards)

The 19<sup>th</sup> ACP MTC was also the occasion for the The Ministers to be updated on the on-going ACP-EU trade related capacity building programmes, including the TradeCom II Programme (in the person of the Team Leader Mr. Ahmed Ndyeshobola who presented and responded to issues related with the opportunities at the TradeCom II Programme in support of trade capacity building in ACP countries) and the Hub and Spokes Programme.



## BREXIT

The 19<sup>th</sup> ACP MTC provided also the opportunity to have an open discussion with the UK Ambassador, Mr. Angus Lipsley on a very relevant subject: BREXIT. The Chairman, Mr. Mike Bimha (Minister of Industry & Commerce of Zimbabwe) summarized the concerns of the ACP States that in the light of recent developments on BREXIT, two questions need to be tackled: what will be the impact of Brexit on the relationship between EU and ACP Group, and how this impact can be mitigated. Mr. Lipsley reassured that, as long as UK will be a member of EU, UK will maintain all commitments with all the partners around the world in the framework of the EU common trade policy.

UK will continue to consider ACP Countries as partners with a great potential to grow and generate jobs, inclusive and sustainable growth in future and will try to replicate the substance and content of the existing EU agreements but on the UK to third countries basis.



## SPECIAL LAUNCH OF E15 INITIATIVE IN BRUSSELS

The 19<sup>th</sup> ACP MTC hosted the special launch of the E15 Initiative in Brussels. Mr. Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive Officer of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and his team of Experts, provided an overview of the E15 Report launched at Davos, Switzerland, whilst highlighting options relevant to the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the global trade and investment system. The presentation by ICTSD Experts (Mr. Darlington MWAPE, Ms. Isabelle RAMDOO, Mr. Bernard HOEKMAN and Mr. Pedro Roffe) focused on the topics of regional trade agreements, regulatory coherence, finance and development, innovation, and digital trade among others.





**14<sup>TH</sup> ACP-EU JMTC**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Ministerial Trade Committee (ACP-EU JMTC) took place at Charlemagne Building in Brussels, on Friday 9 December 2016. The mandate of the ACP-EU JMTC is to address any trade related issue of concern or interest to the ACP States including the monitoring of EPAs.

The 14<sup>th</sup> ACP-EU JMTC brought together ACP Ministers responsible for trade issues, Heads of ACP regional integration organizations, the Africa Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry, the selected focal points of the ACP Ambassadors in Geneva, Ms. Cecilia MALMSTRÖM (EC Trade Commissioner) and Mr. Neven MIMICA, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development.

The EC provided information on further developments in its bilateral FTA negotiations with a number of countries and regions, including with the United States under the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), with Canada under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), on the negotiations of the multilateral Trade in Services Agreement and Environmental Goods Agreement. The EC and the ACP Group representatives debated on how ACP States can be affected by these new agreements



**DISTRIBUTION PER PE1 OBJECTIVES**

CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRADE INSTITUTIONS STRENGTHENED



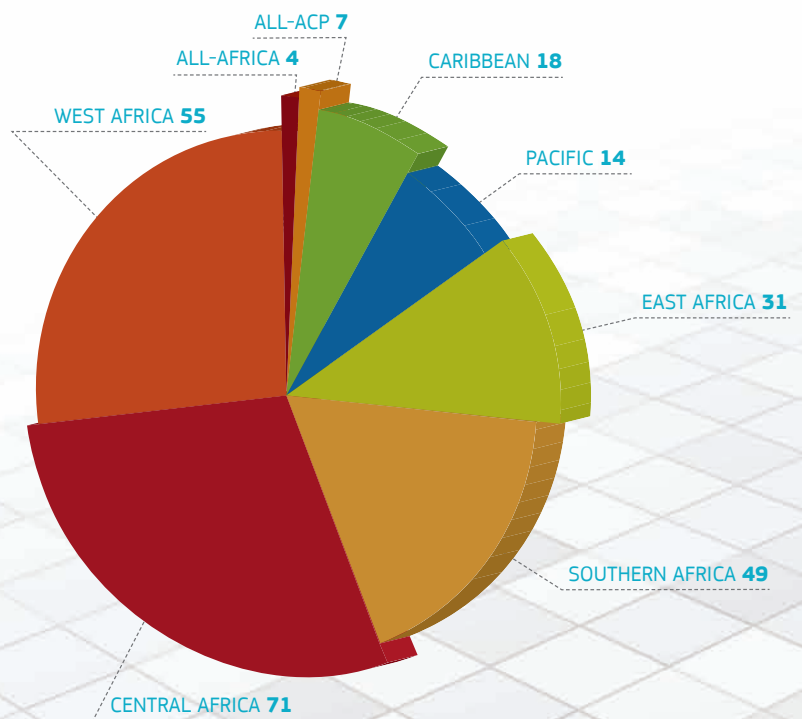
TRADE NEGOTIATION CAPACITIES OF ACP BENEFICIARIES STRENGTHENED & AGREEMENTS IMPLEMENTED



TRADE FACILITATION & COMPETITIVENESS STRENGTHENED



**REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF REQUESTS**



## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

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 was designed by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Government of Niue to support the PIFs trade mainstreaming agenda for the Pacific ACP states (PACP) through the effective use of the National Trade Policy Framework (NTPFs), using the case of the Government of Niue as a “good practice” for the PACPS in their implementation of respective NTPFs.

The Pacific Island states face trade challenges of small size, both in terms of population and domestic markets, distance from key markets, 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 participating in the global economy.

Over the past years the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat-Hubs and Spokes Program has supported PACPS to formulate National Trade Policy Frameworks (NTPFs). These documents evaluate internal and external constraints on a country’s integration into the world economy, and recommend actions suitable to address those constraints. As such, TPFs provide invaluable support to coordinate PACPS’ efforts to increase trade; guide donors in designing their “Aid-for-Trade” (AfT) interventions, and helps PIC governments to mainstream AfT into national development frameworks.

In particular, the Niue NTPF 2016 was finalized in June 2016 and approved by the Cabinet in the same month. The NTPF 2016 aims to become the main government policy to drive delivery of

the Niue National Strategic Plan (NNSP)’s goal on Economic Development. To do so, the high level recommendations of the NTPF need to be transformed in a series of practical action plans, and their implementation needs to be monitored and coordinated by effective mechanisms for trade governance. Moreover, by supporting implementation of selected NTPF’s recommendations on FTAs and customs reform, this project will directly contribute to deliver specific elements of the Niue’s trade development agenda.

The areas of intervention contemplated under this project are two.

The first support area under this project aims to:

- 📍 Reinforce the Regional guidelines on trade mainstreaming and enhance the capacities of trade experts to implement the NTPFs, and
- 📍 strengthen PACPS National institutional structures (National Trade Committees and related departments/agencies) for implementing the NTPFs;

The second support area under this project aims to:

- 📍 designing action plans to implement the 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.



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

The project was developed by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the ECOWAS commission. It is designed to support the ECOWAS Commission to strengthen their capacity to implement the West Africa - EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

The EPA negotiations between West Africa and the European Union started in October 2003 and were concluded in February 2014. The Economic Partnership Agreement with West Africa covers goods and development cooperation. The EPA also included the possibility to hold further negotiations on sustainable development, services, investment and other trade-related issues in the future. The EPA will help West Africa to integrate better into the global trading system and will support investment and economic growth in the region.

The entry into force of the Agreement will ensure a harmonized trade regime between the European Union and the West African region, thereby supporting regional integration and the implementation of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff.

In July 2014, the ECOWAS Heads of State endorsed the EPA for signature. The signature process is currently ongoing at the national level. While all EU member states have completed the ratification process, only 13 out of 16 countries in ECOWAS have appended signature and undergoing the ratification process at national level. The major issue to be addressed is the ownership of the EPA by the main stakeholders, in particular the parliamentarians who have to ratify the agreements before it comes into force.

This project is very timely and will clearly support the West Africa region in the swift implementation of the EPA.

The purpose of this project are two. The first one will lead to a better understanding of the EPA and its ownership by all the stakeholders (parliamentarians, ECOWAS / WAEMU experts, private sector and the civil society). The second purpose is to establish a regional legal framework in dispute settlement for resolving trade disputes and to ensure that agreements are enforced and settled

## Glossary

<b>ACP</b>	Africa Caribbean and Pacific
<b>CARIFORUM</b>	Caribbean Forum
<b>COMESA</b>	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
<b>CTA</b>	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
<b>DG DEVCO</b>	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>EDD</b>	European Development Days
<b>EPA</b>	Economic Partnership Agreement
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FTA</b>	Free Trade Area
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Countries
<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>TBT</b>	Technical Barriers to Trade
<b>TFTA</b>	Tripartite Free Trade Area
<b>TRA</b>	Trade-Related Assistance
<b>TPP</b>	Trans-Pacific Partnership
<b>TPF</b>	Trade Policy Framework
<b>TTIP</b>	Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation

## Upcoming events



JANUARY

**Knowledge Dissemination Workshop on TBT Best Practices**  
 Nairobi, 17-19 January 2017

**TRADECOM II PROGRAMME**

BUILDING ACP TRADE CAPACITY  
 RENFORCER LES CAPACITÉS COMMERCIALES DES ACP

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# TRADECOM II GRANT SCHEME

## EVALUATION COMMITTEE

TradeCom II call for proposals was closed on the 8th of November 2016. The amount of grants applied for is of 14.4 million euros.

To contribute to closer regional integration and increased participation in the global economy of ACP countries and regions through longer-term and locally anchored institutional capacity building is the overall aim of the call for proposals. The specific objective is to build the capacities of ACP trade support institutions in the delivery of trade research and training actions at national and regional levels to address key trade issues.

An evaluation committee was appointed by the Contracting Authority to examine the concept notes. A first meeting of the evaluation committee was held for the opening and administrative checks. A large number of quality concept notes were received and currently being evaluated by the assessors/evaluators.

Concept notes that will receive a score higher than 30 and that reflect best the objectives and priorities of the grants will be invited to submit full applications. The lead applicants will shortly be informed on the results of the evaluations.



**TBT PROGRAMME**  
 KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION  
 WORKSHOP ON TBT BEST PRACTICES

HOTEL BOMA, NAIROBI, KENYA  
 JANUARY 17-19, 2017

Presentation of TBT Programme projects reflecting good practices in:

- ▶ Quality Infrastructure Policies
- ▶ Standards
- ▶ Accreditation and Certification
- ▶ Training

*Workshop aim:*  
 To increase the impact and effectiveness of donor-funded interventions on TBT trade capacity building measures in ACP countries.



**TRADECOM II** PROGRAMME

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2017

THE TRADECOM 2 TEAM  
 WISHES YOU  
 A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017