



WEST AFRICA – EUROPEAN UNION ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

ECOWAS – WTO Trade Policy Course
Lagos, 23 – 25 July 2014

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PROCESS (1/3)

Participatory approach, involving :

- West Africa States (public officials, national parliament)
- Non state Stackholders (private sector, civil society, Researcher)
- Regional actors (ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions, regional Parliament and other regional institutions)
- Ministerial Monitoring Committee (2 meetings/year), ECOWAS Council of Ministers, ECOWAS Head of States Summit

Negotiations focusing on three major elements:

- Text of agreement
- Market Access Offer
- EPA Development Programme

Process (2/3)

Key dates

- **Sept 2002:** Launch of negotiation at ACP level
- **Jan 2003:** Adoption by ECOWAS Heads of State & Government of the negotiation structure and mandate to ECOWAS in collaboration with UEMOA for negotiations
- **Oct 2003:** Launch of negotiation at West Africa level
- **Aug 2004:** Adoption of the negotiation roadmap
- **Dec 2007:** Interim Agreements by Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana
- **June 2009:** Chief Negotiations adopt two-phase approach

PROCESS (3/3)

Recent events

- **Sept 2013:** Extraordinary session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers extended to the Ministers of trade and finance
- **October 2013:** Extraordinary Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government on EPA and CET
- **February 2014:** Negotiation between EU and WA Chiefs Negotiators
- **February 2014:** Ministerial Monitoring Committee meeting
- **March 2014:** Extraordinary ECOWAS Council of Ministers
- **March 2014:** 44th Ordinary Session of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government
- **July 2014:** 45th Ordinary Session of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government

MARKET ACCESS OFFER

Trade liberalisation (1/2)

- EU market liberalisation : 100% from the signature of the agreement
- WA market liberalisation : 75 % on a progressive basis over a 20-year transitional period
- West Africa Market Access Offer Consistent with ECOWAS CET customs duties (35%, 20%, 10%, 5%, 0%)
- 60% out of 75% of liberalised products are inputs, intermediary goods and capital equipment, among which some benefit already of duty free
- Sensitive products mainly agricultural products are excluded from liberalisation
- Products to be liberalised at the end of the first five years period will have positive impact on the productive sector
- Easy understanding by operators and smooth implementation by customs administrations
- Provision for safeguard measures

Trade liberalisation (2/2)

Linked to the ECOWAS CET, the categorization of products according to tariff bands is as follows:

Groups/CET	0%	5%	10%	20%	35%	Total	Share in %
A	73	2110				2183	37.01
B	6	12	1110			1128	19.12
C		24	1	1084		1109	18.80
D	6		262	1081	130	1479	25.07
Total	85	2146	1373	2165	130	5899	100

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DRAFT TEXT OF AGREEMENT

Text of agreement

Structure of draft text

- **Preamble**
- **Part I:** Trade partnership for sustainable development
- **Part II:** Trade Policy and trade-related issues
- **Part III:** Partnership for the implementation and sustainability of the EPA
- **Part IV:** Conflict Prevention and Resolution
- **Part V:** General Exceptions
- **Part VI:** Institutional Provisions
- **Part VII:** Final Provisions

Text of agreement

- Sustainable development in the economic and commercial partnership,
- Concerns of the region in areas of Agriculture and sustainable Fisheries,
- Preservation of the independent financial mechanism of ECOWAS and UEMOA
- Phased liberalization of customs duties
- Possibility to revisit specific products initially proposed for liberalization
- Termination of Interim EPAs of Côte d' Ivoire and Ghana at the conclusion of the regional EPA

Text of agreement

- Need for a funding mechanism for the EPA after the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement (current ACP – EU development cooperation framework)
- Improved Rules of origin for selected West African export of processed products
- Development of a special Protocol defining the modalities of implementation of the EPA Development Programme
- Use of EPADP as the main instrument for achieving the development dimension of the EPA and its financing on the basis of a joint commitment of the European Commission and its Member States,
- Creation of a Regional EPA Fund for channeling resources
- Incorporation of a “rendez-vous” clause on services in the text

Specific issues in the text of agreement

Trade Defence Measures

- Anti-dumping and countervailing measures
- Multilateral safeguard measures
- Bilateral safeguard measures
- Infant industries clause

Specific issues in the text of agreement

Joint West Africa-EU EPA Council

- Joint West Africa-EU EPA Council shall supervise the implementation of this Agreement. It shall meet at ministerial level.

Duration (Article 109)

- Agreement shall be valid indefinitely
- Either Party may give written notice to the other of its intention to denounce the Agreement.
- Denunciation shall take effect six months after notification.

Review Clause (Article 111)

- The Parties shall agree to evaluate or review this Agreement, as appropriate, every five (5) years

EPA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

EPADP framework

- Part of a long term vision relating to achieving the EPA development objectives.
- General objective: To build a competitive regional economy which is harmoniously integrated into the global economy and which stimulates growth and sustainable development.
- EPADP provides a coherent framework for the implementation of priority activities to take advantage of market opening with the EU

28 components as follows:

- **Axis 1:** Diversification and expansion of production capacity (8 components)
- **Axis 2:** Development of intra - regional trade and facilitating access to international markets (5 component)
- **Axis 3:** Improving national and regional trade-related infrastructure (4 components)
- **Axis 4:** Implementation of necessary adjustments and consideration of other trade-related needs (8 components)
- **Axis 5:** Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EPA (3 components)

EPADP operational plans

- Develop operational plans for the first five years of implementation of EPADP
- 16 national operational plans were developed by West Africa states
- Development of a regional operational plan by the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions
- Link between operational plans and other sectoral programs and policies
- Political endorsement plans through national validation workshops
- Activities prioritized on the basis of criteria

EPADP operational plans

Selection of Activities

General criteria

- Trade-related
- Contribute to regional integration
- Take advantage of the possibilities offered by EPA
- Minimize the negative effect of the impact of EPAs

Specific

- Importance: Degree of Maturity & Absorption Capacity
- Coherence with Regional/National/Sectoral policies
- Areas of Interest of technical/financial partners

EPA Development Programme priority Projects Matrix - Period 2015-2019

PROGRAMME (AGGREGATE)	%
Restructuring and upgrading industries	27.53%
Specific support to value chains	
Support the emergence of new competitive SMEs	
Facilitation and development trade	14.63%
Trade-related infrastructure	49.51%
Support for fiscal transition and economic trade-related reforms	6.89%
Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EPA and support for the continuation of negotiations on other issues	1.43%

EPADP in the Text

PART III: Cooperation on the implementation of the EPA's development dimension

- Article 52: Objectives
- Article 53: Principles
- Article 54: Financing modalities
- Article 55: EPA Development Programme
- Article 56: EPA Development Programme Objectives
- Article 57: Strategic Axes of the EPADP
- Article 58: Modalities for the Implementation of the EPADP

EPADP in the Text

EPADP protocol

- Article 1: Objectives
- Article 2: Principles
- Article 3: Programming
- Article 4: Financing Sources
- Article 5: Amount of Financing
- Article 6: Eligibility of Financing
- Article 7: EPA Regional Fund
- Article 8: Operational Arrangement
- Article 9: Evaluation
- Article 10: Revision of Protocol

EPA COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

EPA Communication Strategy

Overall goal

To empower a greater proportion of the West African public to effectively understand and participate meaningfully in the West Africa – European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) process, supported by improved internal communications processes and more effective international policy influence.

Objectives

- Raise awareness and improve credibility
- Improved Understanding of Issues
- Improve our ability to communicate on EPA issues
- Use communications to strengthen West Africa negotiating position

www.epa.ecowas.int

Thank you for your attention

Merci de votre attention

Obrigado