

Workshop “Methodologies for Assessing the Impact of Economic Partnership Agreements for African Economies”

Geneva, 27 – 30 September 2004

Background:

The ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement foresees that the ACP-countries (African, Caribbean and Pacific region) and the European Union (EU) conclude by the end of 2007 Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). The EPAs shall transform the current preferential trade relations between the ACP and the EU into a WTO-compatible trade regime. Negotiations will focus on regional integration among the ACPs, institutional capacities, progressive and flexible liberalisation of trade in goods and services and simple and transparent rules for business and investment. In the framework of the negotiations, African countries in particular have expressed their concern about the future trade relations since they find it difficult to estimate the costs and benefits of EPAs for their national economies and/or for the emerging regional integration schemes. Therefore different institutions have undertaken or are in the process to conduct assessments of the impact of the trade liberalisation for African economies.

In Southern and Eastern Africa the SADC-Secretariat had commissioned The Trades Centre to assess the impacts of EPA for the SADC-region. The COMESA-Secretariat has conducted several studies of the EPA for the ESA-region. For the West African region, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) commissioned the Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWA) to conduct an impact assessment of the EPA for ECOWAS countries. The WTO currently undertakes an impact assessment for Eastern and Southern Africa in cooperation with the Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (TRALAC). The Association “International Lawyers and Economists against Poverty” (ILEAP) intends to undertake for Central and West Africa a project similar to the one of WTO and TRALAC and the European Commission has commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to undertake Sustainability Impact Assessments of the EPAs for all ACP-regions.

All the different undertakings seem to share similar problems and constraints. On the one side, African governments and civil society would like to have precise impact scenarios. On the other side, however, the often poor quality of data available limits the methodology to assess potential impacts. Against this background the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung would like to offer interested experts the opportunity to share their experiences with impact assessments in Africa. In the framework of a workshop they should have the chance to present their findings, to discuss their data and methodologies and to indicate solutions how to overcome the data

and methodological problems. The results of the workshop should contribute as well to the improvement of current and future research activities in the field of impact assessment of EPAs as to more appropriate Terms of Reference for impact assessment studies. The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung has selected Geneva as workshop venue, since in the context of WTO and UNCTAD relevant data sources and expertise are concentrated there.

Draft programme

Status: 23 September 2004

Venue: World Meteorological Organization
7 Bis Avenue de la Paix
CP 2300 – 1211 Geneva 2

Venue of ITC/UNCTAD-Training : IBM Global Services
Av. Guiseppe-Motta 48
1211 Geneva 2

Date: 27 – 30 September 2004

Monday, 27 September 2004

Arrival of external participants

19h30 Dinner with representatives from various Geneva based institutions
Hotel Mon Repos
131, rue de Lausanne

Tuesday, 28 September 2004

09h00 Welcome address
by Erfried Adam, FES-Resident Representative Geneva

09h15 Introduction into the Workshop
by Werner Puschra, Head of FES Africa-Department

09h30 Coffee break

- 09h45 “The Impact of the ACP/EU Economic Partnership Agreements on ECOWAS Countries: An Empirical Analysis of the Trade and Budget Effects”
by Matthias Busse, HWWA (confirmed)
- Discussion of presentation, moderated by Mr. Dominique Njinkeu, ILEAP (T.B.C.)
- 12h15 Lunch break
- 14h00 “Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) – ACP overview and West African Region: Results from phase 1 and approach for sectorial studies in phase 2”
by Jochen Krimphoff, PricewaterhouseCoopers PwC, (confirmed)
- Discussion of presentation, moderated by Ms. Uta Dirksen, FES
- 15h30 Coffee break
- 15h45 “The Impact of the EPA between the ESA and the EU”
Presentation of the COMESA-Secretariat’s findings, data and methodology
by Mark Pearson, COMESA-Secretariat (confirmed)
- Discussion of presentation, moderated by Mr. Sannousi Bilal, ECDPM
- 17h15 Coffee break
- 17h30 “Regional Integration, Cotonou and the WTO: Challenges and Opportunities for Southern and East African Countries”
by Niel Joubert, TRALAC (confirmed)
and Alexander Keck, WTO (confirmed)
- Discussion of presentation, moderated by Mr. Marc Meinardus, FES
- 19h00 End

Wednesday, 29 September 2004

- 09h00 "Impacts of Agricultural Multilateral Negotiations: Case Study of CEMAC Countries"
by Mr. Ernest Bamou, ILEAP
- Discussion of presentation, moderated by Erfried Adam, FES
- 10h30 Coffee break

- 10h45 General discussion and recommendations
for improvement of data and methodology
Moderator: Dr. Werner Puschra, Head of Africa Department, FES
- 13h00 Lunch and end of workshop
- 15h00 Individual arrangements and/or departure of external participants
- alternatively:
- Introduction and training for interested participants in distinct trade
software and databases:
- ITC-tools: TradeMap and Macmap, by Mr. Thierry Paulmier, ITC
 - UNCTAD-tools: TRAINS, WITS and COMTRADE, by Mr. Matthias Busse, HWWA
- (including Coffee break; End approx. 18h00)

Thursday, 30 September 2004

Individual arrangements and/or departure of external participants

PARTICIPANTS:

The following participants are expected to attend the workshop

1. Ms. Ivonne Appea, ICTSD
2. Mr. Ernest Bamou, ILEAP
3. Mr. Sannousi Bilal, ECDPM
4. Mr. Matthias Busse, HWWA
5. Mr. Eduardo Escobedo, ICTSD
6. Mr. Taisuke Ito, UNCTAD
7. Mr. Niel Joubert, TRALAC
8. Mr. Zitto Kabwe, Economist
9. Mr. Alexander Keck, WTO
10. Mr. Kristoffer Klebak, European Commission, DG Trade
11. Ms. Joyce Kortlandt, Oxfam Netherlands (Novib)
12. Mr. Marwa Kisiri, ACP-Secretariat
13. Mr. Jochen Krimphoff, PricewaterhouseCoopers
14. Ms. Mina Mashayekhi, UNCTAD

15. Ms. Megha Mukim, WTO
16. Ms. Flora Musonda, ILEAP
17. Ms. Chawe Mpande-Chuulu, COMESA
18. Mr. Lars Nilsson, European Commission
19. Mr. Dominique Njinkeu, ILEAP
20. Mr. Bonapas Onguglo, UNCTAD
21. Mr. Mark Pearson, COMESA
22. Mr. Moses Tekere, SADC
23. Mr. Vice Yu, South Center
24. Mr. Eric Ramilison, CREAM
25. Mr. Ndiamé Diop, Worldbank (Trade Dep.)
26. Mr. Thierry Paulmier, ITC
27. Mr. Erfried Adam, FES
28. Ms. Uta Dirksen, FES
29. Mr. Marc Meinardus, FES
30. Mr. Werner Puschra, FES
31. Mr. Axel Schmidt, FES

Organisation:

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