

ESA-EC Business Forum for the Signing of the Interim EPA

Mauritius, 27-28 August 2009

***The ESA – EC Economic Partnership Agreement:
A new frontier for Trade, Investment and Services***

Venue: Le Meridien Hotel (Pointe Aux Piments, Mauritius)

Day 1, Morning

08:00 – 12:00

Field visits to the spinning plant at the La Tour Keonig Industrial Park and to Ebene Cyber city (for foreign participants only)

08:00 hrs: Pick up at the Hotel(s)

09:30 hrs: Visit to CMT Spinning La Tour Koenig Industrial Park

11:30 hrs: Visit to Ebene Cyber City

12:00 hrs: Finger lunch at the Ebene Cyber Tower 1

12:00 – 13:00

Lunch break at the Ebene Cyber Tower 1

Day 1, Afternoon

13: 00– 14:00

Registration at Le Meridien Hotel

14: 00– 15:00

Opening Ceremony

Hon. Ramakrishna Sithanen, Vice Prime minister, Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment, Mauritius

Sindiso N. Ngwenya COMESA Secretary General

Peter Thompson, Director, Development and EPAs Unit, DG Trade, European Commission

Hon Minister Félix Mutati, Chair of ESA Group

15:00-15:30

Coffee/Tea break

15:30 – 16:45

Trade and Investment

Strategic Vision of COMESA

COMESA Secretariat

Key Presentations on Trade and Investment strategies to maximise benefits from I-EPA

- Raju Jadoo, Managing Director of the Board of Investment of Mauritius
- Heba Salama, Manager of COMESA Regional Investment Agency

16:45-17:15

How to benefit from access to the EC Market? Instruments to enhance your country export strategy.

Maryse Coutsouradis, Programme Manager, EC Export Help Desk, DG Trade, European Commission

17:15-18:00

Panel Discussion

EU Programmes/ Institutions

- EU Programmes: Amb. Lingston Cumberbatch, Director of the Trade.Com Facility; Sid Boubekour, Head of CDE Regional Office for Southern Africa
- EIB: Svetla Stoeva, Deputy Head of Mission for Southern Africa and Indian Ocean

18:00-20:00

Cocktail and networking

**Day 2,
Morning**

09:00 – 11.00

Trade in services, trading into the future in the region

Trade and Investment sector in COMESA: the view of the European companies and opportunities for ESA companies to link up with European investors.

Presentation from Pascal Kerneis, Managing Director of the European Services Forum

How to access EC markets for services: existing barriers in the EC markets and opportunities for the region

Presentation from Nick Charalambides, International Services Expert

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee /Tea break

11:30 – 13:00

Case studies and Success Stories in ESA region

Agriculture- Agro processing

Tarek Hussein I. El-Baz, Advisor, Agribusiness and Agro-industry Value Chain, UNIDO

Manufacturing-Textile and clothing

Jas Bedi, Chairman of African Cotton and Textile Industries Federation

Services

Daniel Chiwandamira, Development Programmes Expert, Zimbabwe

Mining

Lawrence Chileshe, Assistant General Manager, Chamber of Mines, Zambia

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch break

**Day 2,
Afternoon**

14:00 – 16:00

Networking Fair and Business 2 Business Meetings.

The fair will offer to business people from the COMESA region and Europe an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences and to consider possible cooperation. The EC Export Help Desk will have a stand to offer a practical demonstration of its services.

16:00 – 17:30

Wrap up and Closing remarks

Sindiso N. Ngwenya, COMESA Secretary General

Hon. Dharambeer Gokhool, Minister of Industry, Science and Research,
Government of Mauritius