

ISSUE #14 | DECEMBER 2017

# TRADECOM II News

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF **TRADECOM II PROGRAMME**



PAGE 2

**WTO MC11**

**THE 11TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (MC11) OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION**



PAGE 3

**OECS**

**THE OECS-WTO FISHERIES SUBSIDIES WORKSHOP**



PAGE 4

**PACP4**

**FOCUS ON THE PROGRAMME'S ACTIVITIES**



PAGE 5

**PIF+NIUE**

**FOCUS ON THE PROGRAMME'S ACTIVITIES**

PAGE 6

**COMESA**

ENHANCE COMESA'S REGIONAL TRADE INTEGRATION AGENDA  
**FOCUS ON THE PROGRAMME'S ACTIVITIES**



PAGE 7

**ECOWAS**

**THE FINAL WORKSHOP**

PAGE 9



**ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**



# WTO MC11

## THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (MC11) OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

Despite the cloud of uncertainty shrouding the 11th Ministerial Conference (MC11) of the World Trade Organisation, trade officials from African, Caribbean and Pacific States ensured that meaningful outcomes were generated over the three days of high level held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on the 11th to 13th December 2017.

A significant amount of work was completed in 2017, and ACP ministers advanced on some of the key proposals put on the table by various groups.

Specifically, the ACP Group focused on the outcomes on fisheries (including on Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated fishing (IUU), overfishing, overcapacity and subsidies disciplines), agriculture (domestic support, cotton, special agricultural safeguard, amongst others), and development (including special and differential treatment for developing countries) considering that commitments are limited to a post-MC11 work programme.

But the crux of any of the ACP positions is that a rules-based multilateral trading system is crucial to global progress, and development must remain at the heart of this system.

“We come to Buenos Aires embracing some critical messages,” stated Bradley Felix, Minister of Commerce and Industry of St. Lucia, as he opened the ACP ministerial session leading up to the official opening of MC11. “First is the centrality of development in the work of the WTO for ACP countries, especially recalling the commitment to development issues adopted at the WTO ministerial conference in Doha in 2001, as a means to rebalancing the multilateral trading system for greater inclusion by enabling developing countries to realise the benefits from increased trade.” “We are all small, developing, and least developed countries and appreciate the importance of special and differential treatment to enable us to have the policy space to pursue our development related goals,” he continued.

In October 2017, ACP Trade Ministers made a declaration calling on all WTO members to take all decisions through a transparent,

inclusive and consensus-based process. They demanded concrete steps to conclude the remaining issues of the Doha Development Agenda, while keeping development at the centre of the work programme. Although it spans 79 member states, the ACP Group contributes only 1-2% of world trade. The aim is to increase this share, while transferring the benefits of global trade to the one billion people living in these countries.

In light of this fact, the Ambassador of Guyana in Geneva and coordinator of the ACP Group at the WTO, John Deep Ford, stressed the importance for ACP countries to rally together as a united voice at the Buenos Aires meeting.

“We have been working all year to emphasise the added value of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries standing strongly together on issues that are important to our sustainable development. The ACP strongly supports the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and the recognition of trade as an important vehicle in the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the SDGs,” said Ambassador Ford highlighting that ACP Group remains one of the largest influential negotiating groups at the WTO.



# OECS

## THE OECS-WTO FISHERIES SUBSIDIES WORKSHOP



The OECS-WTO Fisheries Subsidies Workshop was held at Bay Gardens Inn, Castries, St Lucia on 8th to 10th November 2017 in preparation for 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11). In this workshop, OECS WTO members developed an updated understanding on the state of play of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations of MC 11. The workshop was facilitated through the Project Management Unit for the TradeCom II – ACP Trade Capacity Building Programme which commenced in July 2017 under the component Common OECS Service and Fisheries Trade Policies.

The three-day workshop was facilitated by fisheries expert Ms. Zahidah Nisa and Mr. Ricardo James -Permanent Delegation of the OECS. Ms. Susan Renton, from the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) provided technical support throughout the Workshop. The interactions took place through presentations, thematic technical discussions, negotiating working sessions and plenary in order to develop agreed recommendations for the OECS position on the WTO MC 11 vertical text.



In preparation for the OECS, November 2017 Fisheries Subsidies Workshop, preliminary consultations were carried out that provided to assist member states to prepare their concerns on the joint positions on the fisheries subsidies vertical text and text proposed by ACP countries. The preliminary consultations were supported by comprehensive reviews of regional and national policies and follow-up outcomes of the April 2017 CARICOM regional consultation on fisheries subsidies negotiations.

The OECS WTO member countries came out with a list of recommendations on the WTO Unofficial Room Document Negotiating Group on Rules: Fisheries Subsidies Non-Paper RD/TN/RL/29. OECS WTO members emphasized their positions that within the OECS member territories, the fisheries sector operates at the small-scale, artisanal level in their jurisdictions. Therefore, great priority should be placed on the elimination of harmful subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity, particularly for WTO Members that engage in large-scale commercial or industrial fishing. The OECS WTO Member States participating in the Workshop maintained their position to ensure that any fisheries subsidies disciplines agreed should not hinder OECS members' ability to develop further and explore the utility of other revenue-generating components of the fisheries sector especially given that current fisheries operations are undertaken at subsistence or small-scale artisanal level in their jurisdictions. Fisheries trade plays a leading role for some of the member states, which rely heavily on their increasing production of fish and fishery products for export revenues and income generation.

The workshop evaluation from the participants concluded that the workshop was very informative and one of its kind as it was for the first time two different sectors, officials from fisheries and trade came together in the region to discuss fisheries trade matters.



After participating in the WTO MC-11 meetings in Buenos Aires, Mr. Ricardo James (Permanent Delegation of the OECS) expressed that "Following the workshop, WTO Members continued to engage in textual negotiations on the draft consolidated text in the informal room document. Members were able to create more streamlined working documents on the main elements of the negotiations in a separate more formal negotiating text. In immediate lead-up to the Ministerial Conference, Members agreed to transmit a draft bracketed ministerial decision to Ministers for an incremental outcome on IUU prohibitions, elements on transparency, standstill and special and differential treatment. Unfortunately, due to divergences, WTO Members were not able to agree on incremental negotiated outcomes at the Conference. Ministers were however able to agree on a decision that mandated the continuation of the negotiations post MC11. This was the bottom line outcome agreed to at the workshop and sought by the OECS on fisheries subsidies from the Conference.

The discussions, conclusions and recommendations emanating from the workshop therefore provided a sound basis for the Mission's engagements in the discussions and negotiations in the ACP Group and the Negotiating Group on Rules. The workshop was therefore a valuable contribution to the OECS' and ACP positions in the evolution of the consolidated negotiating text and on the streamlined working documents contained which will be the basis of further negotiations as agreed by WTO Ministers in Buenos Aires.

## PACP 4

SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN TRADE FACILITATION AND PRIVATE SECTOR COMPETITIVENESS, IN MARSHALL ISLANDS, KIRIBATI, MICRONESIA AND SAMOA

### FOCUS ON THE PROGRAMME'S ACTIVITIES

The programme is progressing smoothly in all the four (4) components and in the captioned period has generated a large number of outputs.

#### KIRIBATI

The Contractor (AETS Consultants) delivered to the Beneficiary the Electronic Single Window Establishment Model report. In this Report the Contractor identifies solutions based on the findings and recommends the best practice model for a Single Window system based on the WCO guidelines. This report is followed by the Electronic Single Window Implementation Plan which includes legislative review, organisation, capacity building and change management proposals to ensure that best practice will be implemented in Kiribati. The Single Window environment aims to expedite and simplify information flows between trade and government and bring meaningful gains to all parties involved in cross-border trade.



A final workshop was conducted with KCAE officers to discuss, agree and validate various aspects of the Kiribati Single Window (KSW) establishment model. National Trade Advisory Committee (NTAC) Second Special Meeting was held on 3 November 2017.



#### RMI (REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS)

The main output of this activity is the New Customs Tariff Schedule in accordance with 2017 HS nomenclature.

The Contractor (AETS Consultants) provided legal amendments in order to enable the correct classification of goods based on the Harmonised Coding System.

In this exercise sustainable instruction for the classification procedure and a draft declaration form for the collection and recording of trade data to be used by the Customs was also provided to the Beneficiary.

The RMI 2017 HS has been developed after careful considerations on the national and regional developments including trade agreements and trade data. National splits consideration was also made on commodities that required special attention based on the need for special monitoring and also the different duty rates applicable.

A 2017 Customs Harmonised Code Tariff Schedule was developed and will be part of the draft legislative amendment to be submitted to cabinet to legislate the use of HS Commodity Codes with its supplementary duty rates.



The Republic of the Marshall Islands now has the opportunity to adopt and implement the HS 2017. However, it must be supported through more awareness and capacity building for both the public and private sector. The Harmonised Code System Working Group would be an ideal group to drive and oversee the implementation of HS successfully.

#### FSM (FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA)

The last week of the mission in FSM focused on the guide on "Managing the quality" and presentation of solutions regarding actual difficulties encountered by the customs regarding their PCTRADE Software. Mr. Romesh Paul, Team Leader, took the opportunity while being in FSM to present potential solutions allowing customs to use the new nomenclature HS2017.

#### SAMOA

Samoa restructured and developed a new regulation framework for the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The interview conducted by the Contractor (AETS Consultants) and all the information gathered will allow the Contractor to provide to the Beneficiary a complete set of

recommendations to support SME's exports. The main issue may be the capability of the accredited testing laboratory (SROS) to respond to tests requirement for selected products.

The Beneficiary SAME (Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters) identified main priority products based on the export plan 2016-2020. Priority products being: Fish, Noni Juice, Kava. In addition, the contractor also looked on other potential emerging market products like coconut oil, breadfruit flour and cosmetics. Companies were selected based on their readiness to export evaluated on HACCP Certification, and existing exportation to US or Australia. As supporting documents, different questionnaires were prepared depending on each product in order to evaluate the companies' capacities against EU export requirements. For food of non-animal origin, the main issue was the setup of a recognised competent authority.



## PIFS AND NIUE

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

### FOCUS ON THE PROGRAMME'S ACTIVITIES

The PIF programme began its activities in March 2017, up until the concluding phase of the project, including the Regional Workshop held in Nadi, Fiji, on 30-31 October 2017.

The programme was conducted along the two main project components: Regional Component whose primary beneficiary was the PIF secretariat and the National Component targeting the project intervention to the Niue Government.

Activities under the regional component (PIFS-based) included a review of literature and materials, including a 2016 PIFS Survey on TPF Mainstreaming, leading to the development of the Regional Manual on Trade Policy Mainstreaming. The manual draws on international and regional best practices, looks at what trade policy mainstreaming means, its different dimensions, and the tools and processes that can be used and followed to ensure that strong, coordinated, and effective trade policies are put in place across the region. As agreed with the beneficiary the Manual incorporates the survey findings, and includes guidelines for mainstreaming trade and recommendations with respect to accessing development financing for TPF implementation.



The Regional Workshop on Trade Policy Mainstreaming was successfully held in Nadi, Fiji on 30-31 October, and was attended by approximately 50 participants including around 30 PACPS delegates. The workshop marked the conclusion of the mapping exercise and present its outcomes to members, in partnership with its development partners (TRADECOM II and the Hub & Spokes programme).

The trade mainstreaming workshop also provided Forum Island Countries' officials the opportunity to discuss the findings of the trade mainstreaming mapping exercise, including the trade mainstreaming guide.

In addition to considering the outcomes of the trade mainstreaming mapping exercise, officials also discussed mechanisms to finance implementation of trade policy frameworks (Aid for Trade) and emerging trade issues-competition policies. The comprehensive programme, and discussion papers for the regional trade mainstreaming workshop were shared with Members in the next week after the workshop.

Activities under the national component in Niue were also completed successfully. The recommendations from Niue's TPF documents were analysed and translated into an Implementation Matrix as well as a Monitoring Framework and a reporting process.

Training sessions to build the capacity of Niue officials to implement the TPF were designed and delivered over the course of the first two weeks of the mission. In parallel, the team assisted the Economic and Planning Division (EPD) in all aspects of organising and running the inaugural meeting of the NTC, including in the areas of agenda preparation, drafting of the TPF monitoring framework and reporting mechanism, coordinating drafting of issues paper for the NTC meetings, facilitating presentations and discussions and supporting the drafting of the outcome documents.

## COMESA

### ENHANCE COMESA'S REGIONAL TRADE INTEGRATION AGENDA

#### FOCUS ON THE PROGRAMME'S ACTIVITIES

The work has progressed well thus enabling the contracted team of experts (the team) to submit all outputs. The team participated in the COMESA Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade in Services held from 19 to 21 June 2017; and in the Second Meeting of the Trade and Trade Facilitation Subcommittee held from 22 to 24 June 2017 in Kampala, Uganda. The meetings provided an important opportunity for initial interaction between the team and the COMESA Member States in order to get more country specific information and perspectives on the issues being addressed under the support project.

Main findings till December 2017 are:

#### SERVICES:

On the contours of the trade in services negotiations, the outputs include those on Business Services (in particular accountancy profession); Construction Services (and related engineering services) and Energy Services. The outputs provides, among others, an analysis of the capacities available in the sectors by mode of supply, competitive conditions and market description in the targeted sectors at the regional and international levels. The outputs also include recommendations designed to assist COMESA Secretariat and Member States in their preparation for substantive negotiations under the second tier of COMESA regional trade in service liberalisation commitments.

On the energy sector, the outputs shows that the energy infrastructure such as electricity transmission and distribution networks, petroleum and gas pipelines, is still underdeveloped and therefore unable to deliver the services to consumers at an affordable cost and in a reliable way. The development of energy infrastructure for power generation, transmission and distribution remains one of the key priorities for the COMESA region.

In addition to that, the outputs point to the conclusion that commitments on liberalization of the energy services under the trade in services programme will therefore complement and ensure predictability and transparency in the creation of the COMESA energy services integrated market.

On Business Services, the outputs recommends that COMESA Member States should consider negotiating and implementing MRAs in order to promote and facilitate cross border movement of professional services, including the different modes of supply of the accounting services.

In addition, a draft Framework for Temporary Movement of Persons Agreement and a draft Framework for negotiation of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) were also developed.

#### RULES OF ORIGIN:

COMESA Members are partners in multiple agreements (most commonly SADC and EAC under the TFTA, and ECCAS. The outputs contains progressive advice and proposals for the RoO to facilitate the build-up of a competitive and integrative market in the COMESA region. To that end, the main ingredients are to lower the value-added required to obtain COMESA originating status to 25%, and to switch to a list-rule approach.

Intra-COMESA trade is still underdeveloped for various reasons, such as low diversification of production, low logistics performance (in contrary high costs to cross borders), technical barriers, and formalities required to export/import. Liberal rules of origin might help to boost intra-COMESA trade as this would compensate for other trade facilitation shortcomings. This would also facilitate the build-up of regional value-chains.

#### COMESA MEMBER STATES' TRADING AND INVESTMENTS OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE EMERGING MARKET ECONOMIES

Under this component, work aims at reviewing the opportunities for COMESA's repositioning itself with the Emerging Market Economies. The main objective is to propose strategies that can help COMESA Member States to meaningfully engage with the emerging market economies. Work under this component has involved: the review of the trade and investment opportunities and preparation of a strategy for COMESA Member States to overcome existing obstacles and seize opportunities to meaningfully engage with the emerging market economies.

Under this component:

- 📍 Ten (10) emerging economies were targeted: Brazil, Russia, India and China and South Africa (the BRICs), Nigeria; Turkey; Singapore; Saudi Arabia and UAE;
- 📍 Collection and analysis of data on trade and investment between COMESA and the selected 10 emerging economies was undertaken
- 📍 Comparative advantages /disadvantages of trade relations between COMESA and the selected economies were undertaken; and
- 📍 Analysis of the foreign direct investment (FDI) trends of the selected economies in COMESA countries were also undertaken.

#### MAINSTREAMING GENDER AND YOUTH INTO COMESA REGIONAL INTEGRATION AGENDA

A draft on- line training course on Trade and gender has been prepared and is aimed at strengthening gender awareness and mainstreaming of gender concerns into trade policy by COMESA Secretariat and COMESA institutions. It also serves to enhance understanding of gender equality and women's empowerment as a critical step in integration of a gender perspective into the work of COMESA staff and COMESA institutions.

The training module is organized under the following sub-headings:

Learning outcomes,

- II. Concepts in gender mainstreaming and trade policy,
- III. Reproductive roles and the market economy,
- IV. Linkages between gender and trade,
- V. Why gender equality matters for better trade policy outcomes and development, and
- VI. Mainstreaming gender in trade Policy in COMESA.

The key message of the training module developed is: Trade policy is not gender neutral. The distributional outcomes of trade vary between women and men, because they play different roles in society and in the economy, and have access to different opportunities. Women are also not a homogenous group and, therefore, they are differently impacted by trade depending on their income, position in the labour market, educational level, among other factors.

## ECOWAS

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

#### THE FINAL WORKSHOP

The final workshop of the project, “the development of educational tools for training and awareness of ECOWAS/ EU EPA and the establishment of a regional legal framework for West African States on trade disputes” was held on 10th November 2017 at the premises of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Started in February 2017 and designed by the TradeCom II Programme, this project aimed to contribute to sustainable economic development and poverty reduction in ACP countries through the development of educational tools for training and awareness of the ECOWAS/EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), and the establishment of a regional legal framework for West African States on trade disputes (component 2) for a better predictability of trade and the effectiveness resolution of regional trade disputes.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING TOOLS ON THE ECOWAS-EU EPA**

The project contributed to the development of approved timeless educational tools, in French, English and Portuguese, and available to the entire public, to harmonize training programmes on the ECOWAS-EU EPA not only for experts, but also for decision-makers.

A training seminar for ECOWAS and WAEMU experts on ECOWAS-EU EPA was held in Abuja, ECOWAS Commission headquarters, in September 2017 to enhance the capacity of ECOWAS and WAEMU experts regarding the EPA and to enable them have a better understanding of stakes relating to this agreement.

Lastly, a regional meeting of members of parliament, in collaboration with ECOWAS and the European Union Delegation, was organised early November 2017 at the ECOWAS Parliament Headquarters in Abuja to raise the awareness of ECOWAS and Mauritania members of parliament and civil society and to ensure their better understanding of the agreement is content.

#### **ESTABLISH A REGIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**

A legal framework document for West African States on trade disputes was prepared, in four stages, namely: (1) diagnosis of dispute settlement systems and mechanisms in the ECOWAS region; (2) synthesis of the diagnosis elements as well as the provision of elements relating to the establishment of a mechanism or legal assistance advisory centre on the settlement of disputes in the ECOWAS region; (3) organisation of a workshop on the draft legal assistance framework for West African States on trade disputes; and (4) preparation by the workshop participants of a draft legal framework document for West African States.

The workshop on the draft legal framework for West African States on trade disputes was held in November 2017 at the UEMOA Commission headquarters in Ouagadougou and was attended by ECOWAS and WAEMU representatives, the ACP/ EU TradeCom II PMU and resource persons of the region.



## CHAD

### SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF CHAD'S TRADE POLICIES

#### START-UP PHASE

Implementation of this project was awarded to ARCA Consortium and the contract was signed on 2nd October 2017 for a period of 7 months.

The specific objectives of this contract are as follows:

- streamline customs formalities and improve trade facilitation procedures;
- enhance the capacity of the services of the Ministry of Trade for a greater consideration of trade policies;
- improve trade statistical data collection processes, notably regarding trade in services.

The start-up mission took place from 23rd October to 10th November 2017, during which experts discussed expectations with the beneficiary and the Chadian institutions involved in the project. Following the project's implementation approach, in addition to these consultations, a desk review will develop a study with recommendations on the effective implementation of TFA provisions in Chad. Similarly, a national workshop will be organised for selected professionals from key institutions related to Chadian foreign trade for the restitution and validation of the study. Specific

training modules on trade negotiations will be developed as accompanying activities for Chadian experts who are members of the National Commission for Trade Negotiations. Training sessions in the form of a workshop will be organised aimed at preparing an Action Plan for monitoring trade negotiations.

The country's recent trade and openness developments will be taken into account in order to update the thrusts proposed in the ToR. This is mainly to support Chad's TFA implementation process by following specific and differential treatment under the WTO Trade Facilitation Mechanism. This will be fully developed as part of the study Chad's implementation of TFA, under Component 1, and deliver at the workshop scheduled for February 2018.

Regarding Chad's support to measures anticipating the entry into force of the ZLEC in January 2018, it will be an integral part of the negotiating plan included in Objective 2 of the project.

Finally, on the establishment of a statistics unit within the General Secretariat for Trade (component 3), it is proposed to identify 3 employees with the required skills in computer science and level of study who will be supervised for a period of six months by the Statistical Expert.

## SENEGAL

### TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SENEGAL: TRADE FACILITATION, ACCESS TO THE MARKET AND TRADE DEFENCE MEASURES

#### PROGRAMME'S HIGHLIGHTS

Implementation of this project was awarded to BKP and the contract was signed on 2nd October 2017 for a period of 6 months.

The specific objectives of this contract are as follows:

- contribute to the effective implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- collect information on the gains and risks of fisheries subsidy policies in Senegal and the WTO;
- contribute to better use of trade defence instruments;
- support the effective implementation of the specific waiver for LDCs.

The start-up mission was held from 30th October to 2nd November 2017, during which the Team Leader and Expert 2 met with beneficiaries of the Foreign Trade Department (FTD) to discuss the ToR and the expected results.

The workflow was interrupted by the commitments of the main project beneficiary, FTD, which was engaged in regional and multilateral trade negotiations during the months of November and December 2017. As a result, the activity implementation calendar was adjusted accordingly with most field activities now to be delivered during the period of January to March 2018.

The four project components are independent. Thus, the implementation approach varies for each component and is defined by the component's technical expert.

The focused areas of component 1 are the capacity building of subcommittee members through a training programme and a study on the implementation of SPS-related trade facilitation and compliance assessment.

Regarding component 2, the fisheries subsidies study will focus on three elements: the analysis of fisheries subsidies under the auspices of WTO; an analysis of domestic subsidies granted to the fisheries sector in Senegal and an analysis of third-party country subsidies on Senegal's economy. The study will conclude with priority recommendations that Senegal can take into account during the WTO negotiations.

Component 3 will be implemented by drafting a detailed study on the use of trade defence instruments, by preparing an alert protocol in the form of a regulatory instrument, by organising two training sessions, and lastly, by developing a medium-term training programme.

Finally, for the last component on LDCs, the study will focus on the review of existing documents, notably CI, WTO and UNCTAD studies or plans and stakeholder interviews. The strategic section will be prepared based on the review of both horizontal and sectoral domestic laws and regulations, the identification of those, or the missing ones, which impede the development of services and/or the expansion of their exports as well as the development of a regulatory and institutional reform strategy to eliminate these constraints.



# ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



The 106th session of the ACP Council of Ministers was held on the 4th to 6th of December at the ACP House in Brussels. Tradecom II Programme was invited to show the state of play of the Programme implementation as well as the activities carried out in the beneficiary ACP countries. Through a stand set up within the ACP House and specific visibility tools produced and distributed to the Delegates, the PMU gave a presentation on the state of play of the Programme implementation and the huge number of Project Requests received from ACP beneficiaries, processed and bundled into implementable larger programmes.

Decision-makers of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States approved key policy and administrative actions for the organisation, while also taking a stand on major issues affecting ACP countries.

## ENHANCING TRADE AMONG ACP COUNTRIES

In particular, several decisions were taken on trade, including a commitment to enhance intra-ACP trade and economic relations by setting up an ACP-wide trade information portal for ACP individuals and businesses in search of information on manufactured products, commodities, services, investment opportunities and best practices. Ministers also endorsed an incremental approach to intra-ACP trade, targeting areas that could bring immediate benefits such as dealing with non-tariff measures and trade facilitation.

To tackle non-tariff measures set by the EU that impede ACP exports to the EU, the Council of Ministers mandated the establishment of a new programme to support ACP states to cope with the myriad of SPS (Sanitary & Phyto-Sanitary), TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade) and other challenges related to exporting to the EU market.

The Council of Ministers also passed a resolution welcoming progress towards the implementation of the ACP's "New Approach" to commodities, which focuses on transforming ACP commodities by enabling integration into regional and global value chains. The Council urged the expeditious completion of a new programme on value chains that will provide support to sectors such as cotton, sugar, banana, cocoa, kava, fisheries and rum.

## POST-2020 ACP-EU TRADE

Looking towards trade with the European Union after the current ACP-EU Partnership Agreement expires in 2020, the Council of Ministers welcomed the EU's assurance that trade and development cooperation will continue to play a key role in future relations, including Aid for Trade. The Council acknowledged that the cornerstone of future ACP-EU trade relations will likely be the reciprocal but asymmetric Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), for export growth and diversification. However, ministers underscored the need for the future partnership framework to allow discourse on cross-cutting issues under EPAs as well as bilateral and multilateral trade.



# KNOWLEDGE SHARING

## ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT "GOOD PRACTICES"

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM  
FEBRUARY 20-21, 2018



## 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>NAMA</b>	Non-Agricultural Market Access
<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>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary

<b>TBT</b>	Technical Barriers to Trade
<b>TFTA</b>	Tripartite Free Trade Area
<b>TRA</b>	Trade-Related Assistance
<b>TRIPS</b>	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
<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>WAEMU</b>	West African Economic and Monetary Union
<b>WCO</b>	World Customs Organisation
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation

**TRADECOMII** PROGRAMME

BUILDING ACP TRADE CAPACITY  
RENFORCER LES CAPACITÉS COMMERCIALES DES ACP

Avenue de Tervuren 36, box 35  
1040 Brussels - Belgium

☎ 0032 (0)2 739 00 60  
✉ contact@tradecom-acpeu.org  
🌐 www.tradecom-acpeu.org

follow us on twitter:  
@Tradecom\_2  
@Tender\_Tradecom