



OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Updated June 2017 – latest changes in red

REGION	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT STEPS
<p><u>WEST AFRICA</u></p>	<p>The stepping stone EPA with Côte d'Ivoire was signed on 26 November 2008, approved by the European Parliament on 25 March 2009, and ratified by the Ivoirian National Assembly on 12 August 2016. It entered into provisional application on 3 September 2016. The first meeting of the joint EPA committee took place in Abidjan in April 2017.</p> <p>The stepping stone EPA with Ghana was signed on 28 July 2016, ratified on 3 August 2016 by the Ghanaian Parliament and approved by the European Parliament on 1 December 2016. It entered into provisional application on 15 December 2016.</p> <p>Negotiations of the regional EPA were closed by Chief Negotiators on 6 February 2014 in Brussels. The text was initialed on 30 June 2014. All EU Member States and all 15 ECOWAS Member States apart from Nigeria and The Gambia signed the EPA in December 2014. Mauritania and ECOWAS initialed an Association Agreement on 5 May 2017 to define the country's participation in ECOWAS' trade policy including the EPA.</p>	<p><u>Stepping stone EPAs with Ghana</u>: the agreements are provisionally applied. First meeting of the joint EPA committee will take place during the 2nd half of the year in Ghana.</p> <p><u>Regional EPA</u>: After signature by all the Parties, the agreement will be submitted for ratification.</p>

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<p><u>CENTRAL AFRICA</u></p>	<p>Cameroon signed the EPA between the EU and Central Africa as the only country in the region on 15 January 2009. The European Parliament gave its consent in June 2013. In July 2014 the Parliament of Cameroon approved the ratification of the Agreement and on 4 August 2014 the agreement entered into provisional application.</p> <p>The second EPA Committee between Cameroon and the EU took place in December 2016 in Yaoundé. It discussed the state of play of implementation and related issues (rules of origin, liberalization, accompanying measures, etc.). The Parties signed the first Decision of the EPA Committee adopting its Rules of procedure.</p> <p>Contacts are ongoing between the region and the EU on accession to this EPA by other Central African countries.</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the EPA Committee:</u> The third meeting will take place in Brussels in 2017.</p> <p>In the meantime, discussions will continue between the Parties to deepen the implementation of the agreement. Negotiations are also ongoing to agree a protocol on rules of origin.</p>
<p><u>EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ESA)</u></p>	<p>In 2009 Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Madagascar signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The Agreement is provisionally applied since 14 May 2012. The European Parliament gave its consent on 17 January 2013.</p> <p>The inaugural EPA Committee was held in October 2012 in Brussels, and the latest, fifth, meeting took place in December 2016 in Brussels. The Customs Cooperation Committee and the Joint Development Committee also met alongside the EPA Committee. During this meeting, following negotiations during the autumn, both Parties agreed on a package modernizing the rules of origin for this EPA.</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the EPA Committee:</u> The sixth meeting will take place in the last quarter of 2017.</p> <p>Both Parties agreed to jointly define the scope and objectives of the possible deepening of the current EPA before launching the process.</p>

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<p><u>EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC)</u></p>	<p>The negotiations for the regional EPA were successfully concluded on 16 October 2014.</p> <p>On 1 September 2016, Kenya and Rwanda signed the Economic Partnership Agreement between the East African Community and the EU. All EU Member States and the EU have also signed the Agreement.</p>	<p>The EAC Summit of 20 May mandated the Ugandan President currently chairing the EAC to reach out the EU to discuss the way forward for the EPA.</p>
<p><u>SOUTHAFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) EPA Group</u></p>	<p>On 15 July 2014 the EPA negotiations were successfully concluded in South Africa. This ended ten years of negotiations and produced a comprehensive agreement with the whole SADC EPA Group including South Africa.</p> <p>The agreement was signed by the EU and the SADC EPA group on 10 June 2016 and the European Parliament gave its consent on 14 September 2016. Pending ratification by all EU Member States, the agreement came provisionally into force as of 10 October 2016.</p> <p>The first meeting of the joint Trade and Development Committee took place on 16-17 February 2017.</p> <p>Mozambique ratified the agreement on 28 April 2017.</p>	<p>Following provisional application, the Parties are addressing implementation issues including the twin questions of EPA monitoring and civil-society involvement.</p> <p>Mozambique is in the process of submitting the ratification instrument to the Council, after which the agreement will enter provisionally into force also for this country.</p>
<p><u>CARIBBEAN</u></p>	<p>The CARIFORUM – EU EPA was signed in October 2008 and approved by the European Parliament in March 2009.</p> <p>The EPA joint institutions have met regularly since 2010 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council (ministers) held its third meeting in Georgetown in July 2015. • The Trade and Development Committee (senior officials) held its sixth meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, in November 2016 • The Consultative Committee representing civil society held its second meeting in Brussels in April 2016 	<p>Both regions need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue working on the further implementation of the various aspects of the EPA; • agree on a joint system for monitoring the EPA; • negotiate an agreement to protect geographical indications (GIs), valuable regional product names. <p>The <u>fourth meeting of the Joint Council</u> will take place in Brussels in autumn 2017.</p>

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<u>PACIFIC</u>	<p>The EU and Papua New Guinea (PNG) signed the EPA on 30 July and Fiji on 11 December 2009. The EP gave its consent on 19 January 2011. The Parliament of PNG ratified the EPA on 25 May 2011. On 17 July 2014 Fiji decided to start provisionally applying the Agreement. Four meetings of the Trade Committee established under the EPA have taken place as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 April 2011, Port Moresby • 24 February 2012, Port Moresby • 11 July 2013, Brussels • 24 June 2015, Brussels 	<p>The <u>fifth meeting of the Trade Committee</u> under the EPA will take place in autumn 2017.</p>