

At present the trade relations between the EU and the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific are fundamentally redesigned through Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA). These agreements follow the principles of a WTO compatible Free Trade System, yet go far beyond minimum WTO liberalisation standards. EPAs follow the general logic that market and trade liberalisation as well as rules-based economic policy locked-in into trade agreements will promote development in ACP countries.

The liberalisation of agriculture within EPAs has ever since the begin of the negotiations been a major area of concern. Subsidized high-tech EU farmers would compete directly with low-tech smallscale ACP farmers with few alternatives for making their living, thereby threatening many millions of rural livelihoods. By exempting many agricultural products as 'sensitive products' from the mandatory tariff reductions, the EU claims that EPAs will not harm local producers. On the other hand, the liberalisation of all EU agricultural markets is the single most important new opportunity for ACP economies from EPAs.

Despite many exceptions for liberalisation of ACP agriculture, there are still many areas of concern: EU agricultural subsidies are not tackled and will persist. The use of export subsidies is not completely eradicated. On the ACP import side, the so-called "standstill clause" prohibits ACP countries to raise their import tariffs above the levels in place today. This inhibits many ACP country from adapting more long-term protective policies for their agriculture, and may make regional integration more difficult where a Customs Union would require tariff increases.

Venue:

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik
Tulpenfeld 6
D-53113 Bonn

Directions:

By train & subway to Heussallee/Museumsmeile:
All ICE, regional trains and metro trains stop at Bonn Hauptbahnhof (Bonn central station). From there take either subway line L66 (direction Bad Honnef or Ramersdorf), L63 (direction Bad Godesberg) or L16 (direction Bad Godesberg). Disembark at Heussallee/Museumsmeile and leave the station following the signs 'Heussallee'. Once outside, follow Heussallee for approx. 50 meters and turn right into Tulpenfeld. At the Tulpenfeld office complex, follow the signs to the building of GDI/DIE.

Contact/Registration:

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Please register until November 03, 2008.

The conference will be free of charge.

Working language: English

Conference website:

www.germanwatch.org/epa.htm

NGOs, development cooperation and
academia in dialogue:

Assessing the impact of EPAs on Africa's smallholders

Bonn, November 10, 2008



■ **Monday, November 10, 2008**

- 10:00** **Arrival and welcome**
- 10:15** **Panel debate with introductory theses - effects of EPAs on Africa's smallholders: hopes and concerns**
- ...an NGO's point of view
 Tobias **Reichert**, Germanwatch, Berlin
- ...the academic perspective
 Michael **Brüntrup**, German Development Institute, Bonn
- ...the perspective of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food
 Olivier **de Schutter**, Louvain-la-Neuve
- ...the European Commission's standpoint
 Martin **Dihm**, DG Trade, Bruxelles
- ...an African smallholder's opinion
 Adam **Nashiru**, Cotton Growers Association, Ghana
- ...an African NGO's angle
 Henry Richard **Kimera**, Consent Uganda
- chair: Kerstin **Lanje**, Germanwatch Bonn
- 12:00** **Lunch**
- 13:00** **In-depth debate in four working groups: Intersections, 'blind spots' and challenges of development cooperation**

14:30

Coffee break

14:45

Discussion on the challenges of development cooperation

Groups' chairs

Tilder **Kumichii**, ACDIC, GEED Foundation Cameroon

Evita **Schmieg**, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Berlin

chair: Michael **Brüntrup**, GDI

16:00

End of workshop and get-together

WG 1: **EPAs: Export opportunities or export dependency?**

Input: Francisco **Mari**, Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst, Bonn

WG 2: **Do EPAs harm the Right to Food?**

Input: Armin **Paasch**, FIAN Germany, Köln

WG 3: **Development oriented new EPAs: what should they look like?**

Input: Kerstin **Bertow**, University of Gießen

WG 4: **Aid for Trade: what is needed to make EPAs work for development?**

Input: Jana **Höffken**, GTZ Eschborn

Continued from overleaf

In addition, differences in long-term competition development between EU and ACP agriculture are now difficult to address. In general, African states' political autonomy (policy space) is curtailed by EPAs. On the ACP supply side, important questions remain about how African farmers will be able to take advantage of the new export opportunities in sight of the many non-tariff barriers. Without substantial political reforms as well as investment, to be supported by development assistance, EPAs will provide little gain to ACP exporters. Smallholders are particularly handicapped in their supply and trade capacities. In order to support African smallholders, our aim will be to identify intersections, 'blind spots' and opportunities for cooperation in the process of EPA implementation. By giving a forum to NGOs, actors in development cooperation and academia, we intend to synthesize the diverse inputs from the various stakeholders in the EPA discourse.

We are looking forward to your participation!

Kerstin Lanje, Germanwatch

Michael Brüntrup, GDI

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