



WEST AFRICA – EUROPEAN UNION ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

FACTSHEET

MAY 2016

STATE OF PLAY

West Africa – European Union negotiations of an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) were concluded on 30 June 2014 with the initialing of an agreed text by Chief Negotiators. In July 2014, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Heads of State endorsed the EPA and opened it up for signature by Member States. To date, 13 out of 16 West African States have signed the Agreement. Only The Gambia, Nigeria and Mauritania have not yet signed.

The regional agreement covers trade in goods and development-cooperation. It contains a rendezvous clauses for future negotiations on trade in services and other trade-related issues.

After signature, the agreement will be submitted to the Parties, specifically the Member States, for ratification.

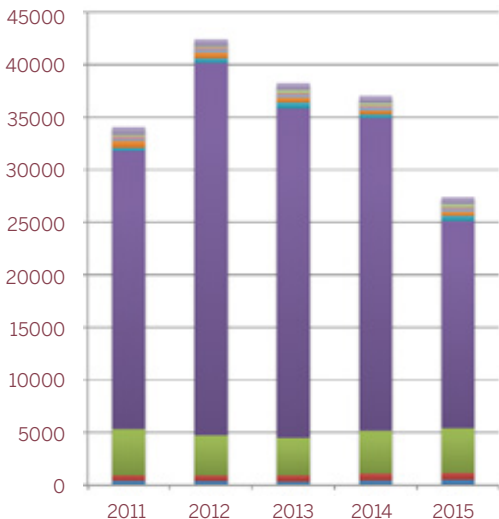
MAIN FEATURES OF THE EPA

- **Duty free quota free access** into EU for all imports from West Africa
- **Asymmetric** and **gradual** opening of West Africa market to EU goods. West Africa committed to liberalise 75% of imports from the EU over a period of 20 years.
- **Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures** aiming, inter alia, to promote health and safety, as well intra-regional harmonisation of measures with international standards
- **Asymmetric Rules of Origin** taking into account the different levels of development of the two Parties
- Possibility to change the West Africa's tariff commitments of based on special needs of common sectoral policies;
- Commitment by the EU and its member States to **fund the EPA Development Programme (EPADP)** over period at least equivalent to the liberalisation of trade in Good from West Africa;
- Maintaining the **regional integration autonomous funding mechanism** of West Africa, until the establishment of a new mechanism ;
- Commitment by European Union Party to **refrain from the use of export subsidies for agricultural products** exported to West Africa
- Establishment of **joint bodies for management and monitoring of implementation of the Agreement promoting** the involvement of all stakeholders;
- Commitment to strengthening of **administrative and customs cooperation** to facilitate trade development;
- **Trade Defence** measures protect regional production to threats due to liberalization;
- **Support for agricultural policies** to strengthen agricultural sectors and ensure food security;
- Deepening cooperation in the area of **sustainable management of fishery resources**;
- Establishment of a **Dispute settlement mechanism**
- Provisions relating to the **duration of the agreement**, its **entry into force** and **revision of the agreement**.
- Establishment of a dialogue on tax reform and absorption of the net fiscal impact resulting from the liberalization
- **Rendezvous clause** to continue negotiations on trade in Services and other trade related issues.

WEST AFRICA – EUROPEAN UNION TRADE IN GOODS

In 2015, the value of total trade flows between West Africa and EU (28) was approximately EUR 56.5bn. Besides Mineral products, the EU primarily imports “Foodstuffs, Beverages and Tobacco” from West Africa, while it exports mainly “Machinery and Appliances”.

Figure 1: European Union Imports from West Africa (Million EUR)



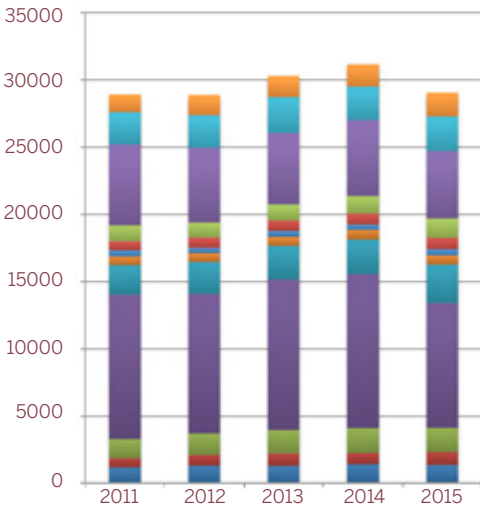
Source: Eurostat Comext – statistical regime 4

- OTHER
- TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT
- BASE METALS AND ARTICLES THEREOF
- PEARLS, PRECIOUS METALS AND ARTICLES THEREOF
- PLASTICS, RUBBER AND ARTICLES THEREOF
- MINERAL PRODUCTS
- FOODSTUFFS, BEVERAGES, TOBACCO
- VEGETABLES PRODUCTS
- LIVE ANIMALS; ANIMAL PRODUCTS





Figure 2: European Union exports to West Africa (Million EUR)



Source: Eurostat Comext – statistical regime 4

- OTHER
- TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT
- MACHINERY AND APPLIANCES
- BASE METALS AND ARTICLES THEREOF
- TEXTILES AND TEXTILE ARTICLES
- PULP OF WOOD, PAPER AND PAPERBOARD
- PLASTICS, RUBBER AND ARTICLES THEREOF
- PRODUCTS OF THE CHEMICAL OR ALLIED INDUSTRIES
- MINERAL PRODUCTS
- FOODSTUFFS, BEVERAGES, TOBACCO
- VEGETABLES PRODUCTS
- LIVE ANIMALS; ANIMAL PRODUCTS

PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

WEST AFRICA: ECOWAS AND UEMOA

The integration process in West Africa is being led by two organisations: The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

ECOWAS was established in 1975 to strengthen integration and economic cooperation among its 15 member states. The overall objective is the creation of an economic and monetary union, which would ensure the free movement of persons, goods, capital and services, as well as establish a common trade policy and common external tariff. In 1993 revision of the treaty, peace and security matters were added to the mandate and ambitions of ECOWAS. WAEMU or UEMOA, which was established in 1994, is a sub-regional organisation whose eight member States share the CFA franc currency.

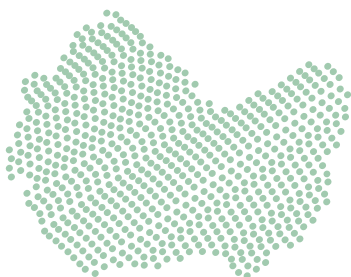
The EPA was negotiated under a West Africa regional configuration which comprised of the fifteen ECOWAS members States plus Mauritania. In conduct of the EPA process, the Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government gave the mandate to the President of the ECOWAS Commission, in collaboration with the President of the UEMOA Commission, to conduct the negotiations on behalf of the Member States. A monitoring mechanism for the negotiations was established to ensure the full involvement of Member States and their key stakeholders.

The West Africa Parties to the Agreement are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, ECOWAS and UEMOA.

THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union was created in the aftermath of the Second World War with the initial objective to increase the economic cooperation and interdependence and through that decrease the risk for new outbursts of violence and conflict. Since then the EU project has grown exponentially to further encompass institutional, political and cultural integration. The EU single market was established in 1993, and the single currency, the Euro, was introduced 6 years later in 1999. The European Commission negotiated the EPA on behalf of the EU member States in line with the EU trade policy.

The EU Parties to the Agreement are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal,, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the European Union.



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