



OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Updated September 2020

Region	Current status	Next step
<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. Tariff liberalisation started in 2016 and entered in its 4th phase in 2019.</p> <p>The fourth annual EPA Committee between Cameroon and the EU took place on 18 and 19 February 2019 in Yaoundé to oversee the implementation of the agreement and related issues.</p>	<p>Meeting of the EPA Committee: The fifth meeting was planned in Brussels in March 2020. It has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions.</p> <p>In the meantime, discussions continue between the Parties to strengthen the implementation of the agreement. Decisions concerning the procedure for mediation and arbitration, the code of conduct for arbitrators, as well as the list of arbitrators have been recently signed. Negotiations are also ongoing to agree on a joint protocol on rules of origin.</p>

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<p><u>WEST AFRICA</u></p>	<p>The EPA with Côte d'Ivoire was signed on 26 November 2008, approved by the European Parliament on 25 March 2009, and ratified by the Ivorian National Assembly on 12 August 2016. It entered into provisional application on 3 September 2016. The fourth meeting of the joint EPA committee took place in Abidjan on 27-28 November 2019 to oversee the implementation of the agreement and related issues. Side meetings took also place with the private sector and Ivorian authorities. Effective liberalisation started officially on 6 December 2019.</p> <p>The 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. The second Meeting of the joint EPA committee with Ghana took place on 29 November 2019 in Brussels. Ghana started tariff liberalisation in 2020.</p> <p>Negotiations of the regional EPA covering 16 countries in West Africa were concluded on 30 June 2014. All EU Member States and 13 West African Countries signed the EPA in December 2014, except Nigeria, Mauritania and The Gambia. The Gambia signed on 9 August 2018 and Mauritania on 21 September 2018, leaving Nigeria the only country of West Africa that has not signed the EPA.</p> <p>Mauritania and ECOWAS signed an Association Agreement on 9 August 2017 to define the country's participation in ECOWAS' trade policy, including the EPA.</p>	<p>EPAs with Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana: the agreements are provisionally applied.</p> <p>The third EPA committee with Ghana is scheduled to take place in the second half of 2020.</p> <p>The fifth EPA committee with Côte d'Ivoire is scheduled to take place in the second half of 2020.</p> <p>Regional EPA: After signature by all the Parties, the agreement will be submitted for ratification.</p>

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<p><u>EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA(ESA)</u></p>	<p>In 2009 Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Madagascar signed an interim 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 provisional application for Comoros started on 7 February 2019. The inaugural EPA Committee was held in October 2012 in Brussels, and the latest, eighth, meeting took place in January 2020 in Seychelles. The Customs Cooperation Committee and the Joint Development Committee also met alongside the EPA Committee.</p> <p>The Parties have also agreed to extend the scope of this EPA to areas not currently covered by the current agreement. These so-called “deepening” negotiations will include all trade-related issues, trade and sustainable development, as well as consultative bodies for civil society and parliaments. The upgraded EPA will be a comprehensive and high-end modern agreement.</p> <p>Negotiations for the ‘deepening’ of the existing agreement were officially launched in Mauritius in October 2019. The Parties clarified horizontal issues relating to the negotiations and exchanged views on a number of areas, including the trade and sustainable development chapter, technical barriers to trade (TBT), agriculture, services and investment, and digital trade. The first round of negotiations took place in Victoria (Seychelles) from 15 to 17 January 2020 and covered five topics: rules of origin, TBT, customs and trade facilitation, sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) and agriculture. This first round took place in a constructive atmosphere, allowing progress on all five topics. The second round of negotiations took place by video conference from 6 to 8 July. It allowed for substantial progress on the outstanding issues relating to three areas: technical barriers to trade, customs and trade facilitation and sanitary and phytosanitary issues, and towards better understanding of both sides’ proposals on rules of origin.</p>	<p>Negotiations on deepening of the agreement will continue in November 2020 (third round).</p> <p>The ninth meeting of the EPA Committee will take place in Brussels in 2021 at a date to be jointly decided.</p>

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<u>EASTAFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC)</u>	<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 2017 requested from the EU to provide clarifications on issues raised by certain EAC members. The EU provided these clarifications. The EAC Summit of 1 February 2019 decided that the EAC would engage with the EU on the pertinent issues of concern. The EU provided further information and offered a technical meeting for further clarifications.</p>	<p>The way forward is still unclear, depending on further feedback from the EAC as an entity.</p> <p>Next EAC Summit, which was postponed due to COVID-19, may give more clarity as to the way forward.</p>

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<u>SOUTHAFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) EPA Group</u>	<p>On 15 July 2014, the EPA negotiations were successfully concluded in South Africa. 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 provisional application for Mozambique started on 4 February 2018.</p> <p>A first Joint Council meeting at Ministerial level took place on 19 February 2019 in Cape Town and put in place the institutional and dispute settlement framework.</p> <p>On 14 June 2019, the EU formally requested dispute settlement consultations with SACU over their safeguard measure on EU poultry. This is the first step in the EPA's dispute avoidance and settlement mechanism. Consultations took place on 13 September 2019 in Gaborone, Botswana.</p> <p>The sixth meeting of the Trade and Development Committee took place in Brussels on 19-20 February 2020 where progress on many implementation topics (e.g. joint monitoring, setting up of a joint civil society platform, levels for triggering agricultural safeguards) was noticeable. The Committee also took note of Angola's formal request for accession to the EPA.</p>	<p>The seventh meeting of the Trade and Development Committee should take place in 2020. The first joint civil society meeting should take place back-to-back to this meeting.</p> <p>In the autumn of 2020, the Joint Council should adopt by written procedure decisions concerning the start of accession process with Angola and the agricultural safeguard clause.</p>

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<u>CARIBBEAN</u>	<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 4th Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council (Ministers) held its meeting in Brussels in November 2017. • The 9th Trade and Development Committee (senior officials) held its meeting Brussels on 28 and 29 November 2019 • The 5th Consultative Committee representing civil society held its meeting in Brussels on 26 November 2019. • The 6th CARIFORUM-EU Special Committee on Customs Cooperation and Trade Facilitation was held in April 2019. • The 3rd CARIFORUM-EU Special Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries was held in January 2019. 	<p>The ex-post evaluation study concerning the first 10 years of implementation of the EPA will be finalised in the course of September 2020.</p> <p>Negotiations on the agreement to protect geographical indications (GIs) are ongoing. Topics under discussion are: setting up a joint monitoring system, 2020 Review Task Force, Tourism and activation of the Cultural Protocol, setting up of the Services Committee</p> <p>The next fifth Joint Cariforum-EU Council will be scheduled to take place in the Cariforum region at the end of 2020.</p>

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<u>PACIFIC</u>	<p>The EU and Papua New Guinea (PNG) signed the interim 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.</p> <p>Seven 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 • 19 October 2017, Brussels • 24 October 2018, Brussels • 3-4 October 2019, Suva, Fiji <p>Samoa acceded to the EPA on 21 December 2018 and Solomon Islands on 17 May 2020. On 19 July 2018, Tonga informed the EU of its intention to accede to the EPA.</p>	<p>The accession of Tonga is to be processed in 2020.</p> <p>The eighth EU-Pacific EPA Trade Committee meeting will take place in the second half of 2020 in the Pacific region.</p>