



## Interim Economic Partnership Agreement between Ghana and the European Union - Factsheet -

In August 2016, Ghana ratified the interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU). The agreement was subsequently approved by the European Parliament in December 2016 and is in place since then. The interim EPA is **a trade and development agreement** which secures Ghana's free access to Europe's market for Ghanaian goods, with a view to sustain Ghana's economic growth through trade, investment and employment. The interim EPA also establishes an institutional partnership between Ghana and the EU on trade matters.

**Ghana's trade with the EU amounts to €5.5 billion** (approx. GH¢ 25.6 billion). The EU is Ghana's main market for its agri-business products (cocoa beans and transformed cocoa, canned tuna, fruit etc.) and supplies a large part of the equipment that contributes to economic growth. The EU also supports Ghana's competitiveness through dedicated development cooperation programmes at national and regional levels.

Ghana and the EU are actively engaged in the process of adopting the regional **West Africa EPA**, which will eventually replace the interim EPA.

### Trade in goods

The provisions on trade in goods cover:

- **Duty free quota free access into the EU** for all imports from Ghana, except arms and ammunitions.
- **Asymmetric and gradual opening** of Ghana's market to EU goods, taking full account of the differences in levels of development between Ghana and the EU.
- A chapter on **trade defence** with bilateral safeguards allowing each party to reintroduce duties or quotas if imports of the other party disturb or threaten to disturb their economy; there are also safeguards for food security or the protection of infant industry.
- A chapter on technical barriers to trade as well as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, **to help Ghanaian exporters better meet EU import standards.**
- A chapter aiming to facilitating trade through measures such as **more efficient customs procedures** and better cooperation between administrations.

### Goods liberalised in the interim EPA

Thanks to the interim EPA, all exports from Ghana to the EU have **entered the EU market duty-free and quota-free** since January 2008. In return, over the next 15 years, Ghana will liberalize 80% of imports from the EU.

Examples of liberalised EU imports are industrial machines (pumps, generators, turbines, etc.), certain vehicles (boats, tractors), or chemicals. These are all inputs used by Ghanaian industries which are not produced locally. Eliminating import duties on these products will reduce the costs of inputs for local businesses, increase their competitiveness and reinforce Ghana's integration in global and regional trade.

### Goods not liberalised in the interim EPA

**Ghana excluded a number of agricultural goods and non-agricultural processed goods** from liberalisation, mainly to ensure the protection of sensitive agricultural markets and industries but also to maintain fiscal revenues.

For example chicken and other meats, tomatoes, onions, sugar, tobacco, beer, used clothes, wheat, frozen fish and industrial plastics are excluded from liberalisation: when entering Ghana's market, those imports will remain taxed at normal rates (the ECOWAS Common External Tariff).

### Development cooperation in the interim EPA

Development cooperation provisions identify priority areas to accompany the implementation of the interim EPA:

- Reinforcing and upgrading the capacity of **productive sectors**;
- Improving of the **business climate**;
- Cooperating on **financial and fiscal adjustment**;
- Implementing **trade rules** in the agreement, and
- **Facilitating trade** and improving customs procedure.

### Link to the text of the interim EPA

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/regions/west-africa/>