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*This **document** is the European Union's (EU) proposal for a legal text on agriculture in the EU-ESA5 deepening of interim agreement. It will be tabled for discussion with ESA5. The actual text in the final agreement will be a result of negotiations between the EU and ESA5.*

DISCLAIMER: *The EU reserves the right to make subsequent modifications to this text and to complement its proposals at a later stage, by modifying, supplementing or withdrawing all, or any part, at any time.*

EU PROPOSAL OF NEGOTIATING TEXT

CHAPTER [XX] AGRICULTURE

Article on Cooperation on Agriculture

1. The Parties underline the importance of the agricultural sector to the food and nutrition security and the socio-economic development of ESA EPA countries, serving as a basis for wider sustainable development, as well as to contribute to the objectives of this Agreement.
2. An agricultural partnership is established between the EU and the ESA EPA countries to facilitate an exchange of views between the Parties on agriculture, inter alia, on commodities, regional value chains, food security, quality standards, responsible investment, research, innovation, use of new technologies, sustainable forest management, sustainable food systems and rural development, biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation.
3. The partnership will aim to combine development cooperation, policy dialogue and promotion of responsible investments as development tools to enhance sustainable production, transformation, intra-regional and continental trade in agricultural products in ESA EPA countries.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article [Cooperation on protection of intellectual property rights], a specific action of the Partnership shall be dedicated to develop and protect GIs in the ESA region covering specific training programmes, technical assistance and support for selected pilot projects.
5. The Parties agree to exchange experience, information and best practices concerning any area covered by the objectives of this Chapter and relevant to trade between the Parties. The Parties agree that such a dialogue will be especially useful in the following areas in particular:
 - a) exchange of information on agricultural production, consumption and trade and on the respective market developments for agricultural and food products;
 - b) exchange of information on agriculture and rural development policies, laws and regulations;
 - c) discussion of policy and institutional changes needed to transform the agricultural sector as well as the formulation and implementation of regional policies on agriculture, food, rural development in pursuit of regional integration;
 - d) exchange of views on new technologies and quality control measures.

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6. The coverage of issues and operational rules for the agricultural partnership shall be established by common agreement of the Parties.