



CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE

**MEETING ON THE SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT
ASSESSMENT IN SUPPORT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH
ANGOLA TO ACCEDE THE EU-SADC ECONOMIC
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT: DRAFT FINAL REPORT**

Date: 25 November 2021

Time: 14:00-15:00

Location: Webex

Lead speakers

- Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Trade (DG Trade), African, Caribbean and Pacific, Overseas Countries and Territories
- Study Coordinator/Team Leader of the consortium led by BKP Economic Advisors

Moderator

Civil Society Coordination, DG Trade, European Commission

1. Introduction and presentation of the state of play of the negotiations

DG TRADE initiated the meeting by providing information about the context and state of play of the negotiations on Angola's accession to the EU-SADC EPA, which is expected to enhance the competitiveness of Angolan businesses and contribute to the economic diversification of the country, as well as strengthen regional economic integration between Angola and other SADC members. By studying the potential economic, social, human rights and environmental impact, the sustainability impact assessment (SIA) plays an important role in ensuring that the EPA fulfils this role.

Regarding the state of play of negotiations and their context, Angola, which had been scheduled to graduate from least developed country (LDC) status in February 2021, recently was granted by the United Nations an extension of the graduation period to February 2024.

Formal accession negotiations have not yet started, but a number of informal talks have taken place to discuss Angola's market access offer. Angola will be expected to make an offer in line with the current SADC EPA states, i.e. the SACU countries and Mozambique. Conversely, the EU will provide duty-free, quota-free access to Angola.

Formal negotiations will be launched once the SADC EPA states have provided their agreement. This is expected in the coming months, as negotiations between Angola

and the SADC states on Angola's accession to the SADC Trade Protocol are progressing well.

In addition to the negotiations about Angola's accession to the EU-SADC EPA, parallel bilateral negotiations between the EU and Angola on an Investment Facilitation Agreement (IFA) were launched in June 2021. They are aimed at ensuring a transparent and predictable framework for investment, particularly benefitting MSMEs.

2. Presentation of the Draft Final Report

The study team presented the draft final report,¹ summarising the scope of the work and the findings regarding the potential economic, social/gender & labour, environmental, and human rights impact of Angola's accession to the EPA, of the Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreement, and technical assistance that could be provided in relation to the two agreements. The corresponding slides are available on the CSD meeting website.²

DG TRADE added that the consultations undertaken in the process of preparing the study also provided important added value and ensured the transparency of the process. The recommendations made in the report will be useful in the accession negotiations, which are hoped to formally start in the first quarter of 2022.

Next steps

In the absence of any comments provided during the meeting, stakeholders are requested to **send their comments on the draft final report to the study team (sia@bkp-advisors.com) by 10 December 2021**, or make an appointment with the study team in that period, should they prefer to provide oral comments.

¹ Available at <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/html/159909.htm>

² <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/dialogue/meetdetails.cfm?meet=11611>. Direct link to the presentation: <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/html/159944.htm>