



## OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Region	Current status	Next step
<p><a href="#"><u>CENTRAL AFRICA</u></a></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 fifth phase in 2021. Parts of the products (category 1) in the liberalisation bands are now fully liberalised. Other products (categories 2 and 3) have seen their applied duty already reduce by 60% or 10%.</p> <p>The sixth meeting of the EPA Committee took place on 9-10 June 2022 in Brussels. Both sides concluded the</p>	<p><b>8 Member States have not ratified the agreement so far:</b> Belgium, Germany, Estonia, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia.</p>

negotiations on the rules of origin protocol. The text will now be formally adopted. The Parties also succeeded in the transposition of the market access offer in SH 2022 and agreed to finalise the second monitoring report on the EPA implementation (covering the period until 2021) by written procedure. Useful discussions also took place on measures to improve business and investment climate, trade development and fulfilment of SPS standards, in view of securing EPA implementation. Both sides also agreed to establish an EPA sub-committee on agriculture and decided to initiate exploratory discussions on *rendez-vous* clauses (titles IV and V of the EPA) concerning trade in services and sustainable development. Finally, both sides discussed measures to improve the governance and trade of the wood market as well as the sustainability of the cocoa sector (with Cameroon participation to the sustainable cocoa dialogue). They also agreed to pursue cooperation to improve WTO reform.

The seventh meeting of the EPA Committee was held from 5 to 6 July 2023 in Yaoundé. Ways to improve cooperation and exchange of information on customs and trade data were discussed and it was agreed to set-up a sub-committee on customs matters. On the adoption of the joint protocol on rules of origin both sides agreed to launch their internal procedures for the EPA Committee to adopt the decision by the next EPA Committee meeting.

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<p><u><a href="#">WEST AFRICA</a></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 fifth meeting of the joint EPA committee took place in Brussels on 18-22 October 2021 to oversee the implementation of the agreement and related issues. Side meetings also took place between the European Economic and Social Committee and Ivorian civil society members to discuss a joint mechanism for the involvement of civil society in EPA implementation. Effective liberalisation started officially on 6 December 2019. A second group of products enters now in the Ivorian market free of duty when originating in the EU. Since 1 January 2021.</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 third Meeting of the joint EPA Committee with Ghana took place on 29-30 July 2021 (virtual). Ghana started tariff liberalisation in 2020 and implemented the first tariff cuts on 1 July 2021.</p> <p>Negotiations of the regional EPA covering 16 countries in West Africa were concluded on 30 June 2014. All EU</p>	<p><b>EPAs with Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana:</b> the agreements are provisionally applied.</p> <p>The sixth EPA Committee with Côte d'Ivoire is scheduled for 12-13 October 2023 in Abidjan.</p> <p>The fifth EPA Committee with Ghana is scheduled for 13-14 November 2023 in Brussels.</p> <p><b>Regional EPA:</b> After signature by all the Parties, the agreement will be submitted for ratification.</p> <p><b>EU-Ghana interim EPA: 20 Member States have not yet ratified the agreement:</b> Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and Sweden.</p> <p><b>EU-Côte d'Ivoire interim EPA: 7 Member States have not yet ratified the agreement:</b> Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Italy and Netherlands.</p>

	<p>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, with Nigeria remaining 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>The fifth EPA Committee with Ivory Coast took place on 20-21 October 2021 in Brussels.</p> <p>The fourth EPA Committee with Ghana took place from 28 November to 1 December 2022 in Accra.</p>	
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<a href="#"><u>EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA(ESA)</u></a>	<p>In 2009 Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Madagascar signed an interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The Agreement is applied provisionally 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, ninth, EPA Committee meeting took place virtually on 12 October 2022. 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.</p> <p>Negotiations for the 'deepening' of the existing agreement were officially launched in Mauritius in October 2019. Since then, nine rounds of negotiations have taken place: the first in Victoria (Seychelles) from 15 to 17 January 2020. The following six by video conference due to the Covid-19 pandemic on 6 - 8 July and 24-27 November 2020, on 13-16 April, 19-23 July and 22-26 November 2021 and on 28 March to 1 April 2022. The eighth took place from 30 May to 3 June 2022 in Brussels and via videoconference,</p>	<p>Negotiations on deepening of the agreement will continue in the thirteenth round that should take place by the end of 2023 in the ESA region.</p>

	<p>the ninth in Antananarivo and via video-conference from 19 to 23 September 2022, the tenth in Brussels and via video-conference from 12 to 16 December 2022, the eleventh in Victoria Falls and via video-conference from 27 to 31 March 2023, and the twelfth from 26 to 30 June 2023 in Brussels and via video-conference.</p> <p>The negotiations cover all trade related areas such as rules of origin, trade barriers to trade, customs and trade facilitation, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, agriculture, trade and sustainable development, trade in services, investment liberalisation and digital trade, intellectual property rights, public procurement and economic and development cooperation.</p> <p>(Reports of negotiation rounds and EU draft texts can be found at the <a href="#">EU-Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA5) EPA deepening negotiations</a> web page).</p>	
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<p><a href="#"><u>EASTAFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC)</u></a></p>	<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. All EAC members need to sign and ratify the EPA to be implemented.</p> <p>In February 2021 the Eastern African Community (EAC) leaders decided to give green light to its members wishing to engage with the EU with a view to implementing the EAC-EU EPA based on the principle of variable geometry. Kenya submitted a formal request to implement this agreement bilaterally.</p> <p>On 17 February 2022, EU and Kenya launched talks on the bilateral implementation by Kenya of the EU-EAC EPA with sustainability provisions. The political conclusion of the negotiations took place on 19 June 2023 in Nairobi. The agreement introduces the necessary adjustments for the implementation of the regional EPA by an individual EAC member and is open to any other EAC country to join in the future.</p>	<p>Following a process of legal revision and translation, the agreement will be submitted for signature and later adoption under each party's procedures.</p>

	<p>(Reports of negotiation rounds can be found at the <a href="#">EU-Kenya agreement: Documents</a> web page and the text of the agreement at the <a href="#">EU-Kenya: Text of the Agreement</a> web page).</p>	
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<p><a href="#"><u>SOUTH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) EPA Group</u></a></p>	<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. 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 requested formally 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. In April 2020, the EU requested the establishment of an arbitration panel. This process was put initially on hold because of the Covid-19 pandemic and was resumed in November 2020. The arbitration panel was established in December 2021. The oral hearing took place in March 2022 in Gaborone. On 3 August, the arbitration</p>	<p>The 5-year EPA review process was launched in November 2021.</p> <p>The tenth meeting of the Trade and Development Committee should take place in the second half of 2023. The second Joint Council should meet in the first quarter of 2024.</p> <p><b>15 Member States have not ratified the agreement so far:</b> Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, France, Cyprus, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden.</p>

	<p>panel issued the final report. The panel found that the safeguard had been imposed in violation of the principles of article 34 of the EU-SADC EPA on safeguards and was therefore illegal.</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 took place in a virtual format on 26 February 2021. Both sides discussed the pending Joint Council Decisions on Angola's accession and on the revision of the agricultural safeguard thresholds. Both sides continued to discuss the participation of non-state actors and on the monitoring mechanism they agreed to include indicators related to ratification of international labour conventions and multilateral environmental agreements. They appointed coordinators with a view of initiating the work on the report that was to be published by 15 October 2021. They also agreed to launch the EPA review in October and to set up a Technical Group that will start working on a draft outline. Parties also discussed a number of pending market access issues.</p>	
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	<p>The eighth meeting of the Trade and Development Committee took place in a virtual format on 25-26 November 2021. Both sides agreed to launch the EPA review process and hold next meeting of the Technical Group by end of February 2022 (later postponed to November). Discussions continued on participation of non-state actors and the monitoring mechanism. On the monitoring mechanism, the Parties agreed to proceed with working on the joint report using EU and other international statistics and data sources and circulate the draft report by end of March 2022, and at that time SADC EPA Member States should already be in a position to complete the data collection questionnaire. There was also an agreement on the way forward for launching negotiations with Angola.</p> <p>The ninth meeting of the Trade and Development Committee took place on 16-18 November 2022 in Brussels. The Parties agreed on next stages of the EPA review process (launched in November 2021) and some progress was achieved towards involvement of non-state actors in monitoring of EPA implementation. On the first EU-SADC EPA monitoring report, the EU sent a draft in December 2022. The SADC EPA side had no further comments to the draft and it is now being translated to Portuguese.</p>	
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	<p>On 26 July 2022, the EU-SADC EPA Joint Council adopted the decision on Angola Accession to the EU SADC EPA, enabling Angola to start negotiations for accession to the EU-SADC EPA.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><u>EU-ANGOLA SIFA</u></a></p>	<p>The European Union concluded negotiations with Angola on a Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreement on 18 November 2022. The agreement will seek to facilitate investment, simplify procedures, enhance public-private dialogue and promote responsible investment.</p>	<p>Following a process of legal revision and translation, the agreement will be submitted for signature (expected around October 2023) and later adoption under each party's procedures.</p>

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<p><u>CARIBBEAN</u></p>	<p>The CARIFORUM – EU EPA was signed in October 2008 and approved by the European Parliament in March 2009.</p> <p>This EPA has a rich institutional structure and the EPA joint institutions have met regularly since 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fourth Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council (Ministers) held its meeting in Brussels in November 2017.</li> <li>• The ninth Trade and Development Committee (senior officials) held its meeting Brussels on 28 and 29 November 2019.</li> <li>• The sixth Consultative Committee representing civil society held its last meeting in May 2022 in Barbados.</li> <li>• The seventh CARIFORUM-EU Special Committee on Customs Cooperation and Trade Facilitation was held on 27 April 2022 in Guyana.</li> <li>• The fourth CARIFORUM-EU Special Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries was held on 13 February 2020 (virtually).</li> <li>• The third CARIFORUM-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee meeting was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on</li> </ul>	<p>Meetings planned to advance the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The fifth Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council and the tenth Trade and Development Committee should take place in the second half of 2023.</li> <li>- The final meetings of the EU-CARIFORUM Review Task Force are planned for the third quarter of 2023 and should agree on the joint final Review Report.</li> <li>- The Monitoring Task Force should agree on the first pilot monitoring report (to be produced jointly before the next Joint Council).</li> <li>- The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Simplification of Rules of Origin took place in October 2021 and pending of reaction to EU proposal).</li> <li>- The Decision on setting up the Services Committee is ready for adoption by written procedure. The Committee will then be formally established.</li> </ul> <p>The Agreement is in provisional application. <b>One EU Member State</b> (Hungary) has not ratified the agreement. On the CARIFORUM side, 4 States have not ratified yet (<u>Bahamas, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago</u>).</p>

	<p>31 October - 1 November 2017.</p> <p>Key implementation topics with CARIFORUM under discussion are: setting up a joint monitoring mechanism, 5 years EPA Review Task Force, GIs negotiations, increasing transparency of the applicable EPA tariff rates and HS transposition 2002-2017 of Market Access Schedules, setting up the Committee on Services, activation of the Cultural Protocol.</p> <p>Negotiations on the agreement to protect geographical indications (GIs) are ongoing and the third round took place (virtually) on 25 March 2021.</p> <p>There is an ongoing EPA Review process with CARIFORUM focusing on progress in implementation and impact of the Agreement with the final Review Report expected in 3<sup>rd</sup> Q 2023.</p>	
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Region	Current status	Next step
<p><a href="#"><u>PACIFIC</u></a></p>	<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>Eight meetings of the Trade Committee established under the EPA have taken place as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 April 2011, Port Moresby</li> <li>• 24 February 2012, Port Moresby</li> <li>• 11 July 2013, Brussels</li> <li>• 24 June 2015, Brussels</li> <li>• 19 October 2017, Brussels</li> <li>• 24 October 2018, Brussels</li> <li>• 3-4 October 2019, Suva, Fiji</li> <li>• 7-8 October 2021 (virtual)</li> </ul> <p>Samoa and Solomon Islands acceded to the EPA on 21 December 2018 and 17 May 2020, respectively. Tonga and Timor-Leste informed the EU in July 2018 and October 2020 respectively of their intention to accede to the EPA. So did Tuvalu, Niue and Vanuatu in June, November and December 2022, respectively.</p>	<p>An accession process is underway with Tonga, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Niue and Vanuatu, which have informed the EU of their intention to accede to the Agreement.</p> <p>The ninth EU-Pacific EPA Trade Committee meeting is expected to be scheduled in the fourth quarter of 2023 in Apia, Samoa (tbc).</p>

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<a href="#"><u>AFRICAN UNION</u></a>	At the EU-African Union (AU) Commission-to-Commission meeting that took place in Brussels in November 2022, both Commissions agreed to set up a High-Level Dialogue (HLD) on economic integration with a view to strengthening trade relations and sustainable investment between the two continents.	The first meeting of the HLD could take place in early 2024.