

# **Ghana-EU Interim EPA**

## **EPA COMMITTEE**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

**Accra, 24 January 2018**

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#### **Joint Communiqué**

The first meeting of the EPA Committee under the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA) between Ghana and the EU was held in Accra, Ghana on 24 January 2018.

The EPA provides duty-free and quota-free access to all Ghana's exports, agricultural or manufactured, to the EU market, while Ghana will gradually and partially liberalize imports from the EU. As such, the EPA will protect existing jobs in the export sector and aims at bringing more investment to Ghana and to create new jobs.

During the meeting, the Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the iEPA as a mechanism for dialogue and partnership, as well as a tool to boost trade and investment and foster development.

The EPA Committee endorsed the rules of procedures governing the Joint EPA committee.

The Parties discussed the example in the implementation of the iEPA in Cote d'Ivoire and West Africa and exchanged information in respect of Rules of Origins, liberalization schedule, institutional set up and the monitoring of the EPA.

The Parties agreed to set up an appropriate mechanism of monitoring of the implementation of the iEPA.

The Parties agreed to start negotiating the procedures relating to a reciprocal Protocol on Rules of Origin of the Ghana-EU iEPA.

The EPA Committee provisionally endorsed the transposition of the tariff nomenclature in HS 2017. The parties agreed to start reviewing the liberalization schedule.

The Parties agreed to continue to exchange papers with the proposal of each Party on these matters with the view of finding an agreement on those issues during a technical meeting which would take place in July 2018 in Brussels.

The Parties reviewed the EPA accompanying measures strategy undertaken by Ghana which provides the roadmap and strategic framework to maximize the opportunities of the EPA. The EU is fully committed to supporting the strategy and is providing a total of EUR 12 million through the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund to support its implementation.

The EPA Committee discussed the consequences of the accession of Croatia in the EPA. The EU will submit a draft decision proposal for endorsement by the next EPA committee.

The second meeting of the EPA committee will take place in Brussels during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2019.

The meeting took place in a very cordial atmosphere.