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Working group News on Trade – JUNE 2017

1. Cameroon: Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with EU reduces customs revenue

The EPA between Cameroon and the EU which came into force on 4th August 2016 has done no favours to Cameroon. Ten months after the agreement went operational, Cameroon has recorded a larger than foreseen fall in customs revenue collection. The general manager of Cameroon customs revealed this information in June. This loss could increase drastically as days go by due to fraud, corruption and black-market transactions at the Douala seaport. [Read more](#)

2. Nigeria: Trade negotiation office to advise government on how to resolve EPA challenge

The Nigeria Office for Trade Negotiation (NOTN) is to advise the federal government on how best to go about resolving the contentious EPA. The NOTN is the pivot for the negotiation of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements between Nigeria and other countries. The EPA does not guarantee the development of the industrial economy. With the current EPAs, Nigeria will export raw materials to the European market where they will be processed. But then, Nigeria will have to allow the finished goods to be sent back. That was the model of trade in the colonial era. However, the goal must be to enter into agreements with other countries whereby Nigeria also adds value to incoming products.

[Read more](#)

3. East Africa: COMESA Seeks Ways to Improve Intra-Africa Trade at Kigali Forum

Economists, researchers, government officials and trade experts are in Kigali for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Annual Research Forum. Under the theme 'Boosting intra-African trade through regional economic communities: Perspectives from COMESA regional integration programme,' the forum seeks to strengthen the participation of governments and key stakeholders in the regional market integration. The meeting also seeks to create a common understanding on the region's research priorities for COMESA as the largest regional economic community in Africa.

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