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1707 Working group News on Trade – July- August 2017

1. Non-agricultural market access negotiations at the WTO

In July 2017, the members of the WTO negotiating group on non-agricultural market access considered a proposal on enhancing transparency of regulatory measures for trade in goods. The proposal by the EU and other countries aims to enhance transparency in regulatory measures governing trade in goods, Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures and on Technical Barriers to Trade and also transparency in the process by which these measures are developed. The proposal was not well received by many African countries because it would increase administrative burdens and the infringement of sovereignty. [Read more](#)

2. South Africa's EPA deal: Is the EU playing chicken?

The current trade dispute over chicken between South Africa and the European Union, in which local business and trade unions say the EU is selling chicken at below cost, threatening local companies and jobs, is in part because of weaknesses in South Africa's EPA. The EPA deal replaced South Africa's bilateral trade agreement with the EU, called the Trade Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA) signed in 2000. South Africa, like many developing countries, is finding itself - in most goods it exports - at the low value added part of global value chains as supplier of mostly primary products and commodities. [Read more](#)

3. The EU's failure on policy commitments to support smallholder agriculture

In 2017 the world stands on the brink of an unprecedented four famines. Famine has already been declared in South Sudan, while Nigeria, Yemen and Somalia are also facing the risk of mass starvation. These are just four of the dozens of countries confronting acute food insecurity. The reasons for this are many, including high food prices, low agricultural productivity, abnormal weather patterns and conflict. Yet the scale of food insecurity points to deeper problems in the global food system that have never been adequately tackled. Social and economic exclusion, structural poverty, lack of access to productive resources such as land, and imbalances in power are consigning millions of people to hunger. There is significant agreement on the need for greater commitment to address the long-term structural causes of food insecurity – and solutions are known. [Read more](#)

4. Reconsider stand on EPA –EU envoy tells Nigeria

The Head of the Union (EU) delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS has enjoined Nigeria to reconsider its reluctance to sign the EPA. He gave the advice at the Nigerian-Belgian Chamber of Commerce. The EU Representative said that it was imperative to reconsider the benefits of EPAs and join other countries currently taking advantage of the opportunities in the agreement. The EPA would reduce what Nigeria needs for its industrialisation. [Read more](#)