



**AFRICA EUROPE FAITH AND JUSTICE NETWORK
RESEAU FOI ET JUSTICE AFRIQUE EUROPE**

174, rue Joseph II str.
B 1000 BRUSSELS - Belgium
Tel. +32.(0)2.234.68.10 / Fax. +32. (0)2.231 14 13
email: aefjn@aefjn.org
<http://www.aefjn.org>

1802 Working Group News on Trade February 2018

1. Mozambique joins the EPA between the EU and Southern African States

The EPA between the EU and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) became the first regional EPA in Africa to be fully operational after its implementation by Mozambique. Mozambique was the last piece of the SADC-EPA jigsaw to fall into place. The other five countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South-Africa, and Swaziland – have been implementing the agreement since October 2016. Implementing the EPA means that Mozambique will not have to pay customs duties on its exports to the EU. But what are the products that Mozambique exports to the EU? In any case Mozambique is currently exempt from paying duties. What is a success for the EU is negative for the people and industry in Mozambique. [Read more](#)

2. The absurd implementation of Ghana's interim EPA

In December 2016 Ghana's interim EPA entered into provisional application after the European and Ghanaian Parliament ratified it. The Ghanaian parliament did not realize that it was shooting itself in the foot, following the government that preferred to yield to the strong pressures of international agribusiness firms rather than listen to the warnings of the whole society Ghana, the Association of Industry, the trade union movement and farmers' organizations. The ratified iEPA is different from the regional EPA of West Africa, especially on the tariff liberalization schedule. [Read more](#)

3. The EC's Recommendations for the Post-Cotonou Negotiations: Some Implications for ACP

The EC communication on the Post Cotonou ACP-EU negotiations has been described as 'a confusing mixture of liberalisation and positive policy recommendations'. There are some areas which could be built on for the benefit of ACP agricultural producers and exporters, but there are also areas which could narrow the options which ACP governments have for supporting integrated agro-food sector development. How effectively prepared are ACP structures and institutions for engaging in the political struggle which lies ahead in the post-Cotonou ACP-EU partnership negotiations.

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4. Extraordinary summit to be held on Africa's CFTA this March

An extraordinary summit of the African Union is scheduled to be held in Kigali, Rwanda on 21 March 2018 to consider and sign the Framework Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). This follows the adoption by the Trade Ministers in Niamey, Niger in December 2017 of the Framework Agreement on the CFTA as well as Protocols on Trade in Goods and Protocols on Trade in Services with an in-built agenda. Various stakeholders have been worried with the speedy agenda of the CFTA processes and how the eventual outcome will address Africa's need for structural economic transformation. [Read more](#)