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1805 Working Group News on Trade May 2018

1. System of private corporate courts rightly shot down by ECJ

The [European Court of Justice](#) stated that the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms within the single market are incompatible with EU law, it must spell the end of such corporate courts in Europe. The ISDS rules allow foreign investors to bypass normal public courts to sue governments if they bring in laws that affect their potential profits. Some corporations have already used it to collect millions from governments by claiming damage to their profit margins by public interest decision-making on topics like workers' rights, environmental protection, energy and public health policy. If it is not compatible with the EU Law why the EU wants to include it in its trade dispute with African countries?

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2. How EU powdered milk threatens African production

The secondary effect of the common agricultural policy (CAP) on African agriculture is a source of concern for MEPs. In recent years exports of powdered milk have soared, threatening the African dairy sector. If Europeans farmers profit from the policy set up by the EU, the collateral damages in developing countries can sometimes be quite significant. Milk imports from West Africa have been increasing from 0.6 to 2.1 million tons. The deterioration of the trade balance could be further accentuated with the implementation of EPA that provides the liberalisation of African markets against free access to the European Market. [Read more](#)

3. Cameroon-European Union: disagreement on EPA's rules of origin

The implementation of the Bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement between Cameroon and the EU does not satisfy both parties. Negotiators speak of a tense atmosphere between the representatives of both parties that do not agree on the rules of origin. For example, Cameroonians and Europeans have differing positions on the Conditions on Ships or Factory Vessels. There is also divergence on accumulation of origin with Central African countries. Cameroon proposes accumulation with the non-signatory Central African countries of the EPAs, in view of the potential of trade with these countries. Meanwhile the EU says it can only accept accumulation with products entering its territory free of customs duties. [Read more](#)

4. Why Nigeria didn't sign Economic Partnership Agreement

President Buhari has stated the reasons why Nigeria refused to sign the Economic Partnership Agreement among ECOWAS countries. The President told that Nigeria had been reluctant to sign the EPA among ECOWAS countries because of the need to protect the economy, especially the industries and small businesses that currently provide jobs for majority of Nigerians. The signing of the agreement will expose the industries and small businesses to external pressures and competitions, which could lead to closure and job losses. The Nigerian industries cannot compete with the more efficient and highly technology-driven industries in Europe. We have to protect our industries and our youths.

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