

Basic information

2008/0251(NLE)

NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Decision

Awaiting final decision

EC/Eastern and Southern Africa States (ESA) agreement: interim agreement establishing a framework for Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

Subject

6.20.05 Multilateral and plurilateral economic and trade agreements and relations
6.30 Development cooperation
6.40.06 Relations with ACP countries, conventions and generalities

Geographical area

Madagascar
Mauritius
Seychelles
Zimbabwe

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible

INTA International Trade

Rapporteur

CASPARY Daniel (PPE)

Appointed

01/09/2009

Shadow rapporteur

LANGE Bernd (S&D)

KELLER Ska (Verts/ALE)

STURDY Robert (ECR)

MURPHY Paul (GUE/NGL)

Former committee responsible

INTA International Trade

Former rapporteur

Appointed

Committee for opinion

DEVE Development

Rapporteur for opinion

SARGENTINI Judith (Verts /ALE)

Appointed

18/09/2012

Former committee for opinion

Former rapporteur for opinion

Appointed

	DEVE Development		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2956	2009-07-13
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Trade and Economic Security	DE GUCHT Karel	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/12/2008	Preparatory document	COM(2008)0861 	
02/12/2009	Additional information		Summary
04/07/2012	Legislative proposal published	11699/2012	Summary
11/09/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/12/2012	Vote in committee		
19/12/2012	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0431/2012	Summary
16/01/2013	Debate in Parliament		
17/01/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0025/2013	Summary
17/01/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/0251(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 211 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting final decision
Committee dossier	INTA/7/00146

Documentation gateway
European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE497.855	26/10/2012	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE500.726	28/11/2012	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE497.945	06/12/2012	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0431/2012	19/12/2012	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0025/2013	17/01/2013	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	05556/2009	30/04/2009	
Legislative proposal	11699/2012	04/07/2012	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2008)0861 	16/12/2008	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2008)0863 	16/12/2008	Summary
Commission document (COM)	COM(2013)0086 	19/02/2013	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2013)0086	04/07/2013	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

EC/Eastern and Southern Africa States (ESA) agreement: interim agreement establishing a framework for Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

The Committee on International Trade adopted the report by Daniel CASPARY (EPP, DE) on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Interim Agreement establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement between Eastern and Southern Africa States, on the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, on the other part.

The committee recommends that the European Parliament **give its consent to the conclusion of the agreement** considering that the signing of the agreement is a necessary step towards sustainable growth in the region. It also underlines the importance of the continued negotiations with a view to a full agreement for encouraging increased trade, investment and regional integration in the region.

EC/Eastern and Southern Africa States (ESA) agreement: interim agreement establishing a framework for Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

2008/0251(NLE) - 17/01/2013 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 494 votes to 97, with 33 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Interim Agreement establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement between Eastern and Southern Africa States, on the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, on the other part.

Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

EC/Eastern and Southern Africa States (ESA) agreement: interim agreement establishing a framework for Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

2008/0251(NLE) - 16/12/2008 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE: to propose the signature and provisional application of the **interim agreement establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement** between Eastern and Southern Africa States on the one part and the European Community and its Member States on the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

CONTENT: the content of this provisional agreement is identical to that of the interim agreement establishing a framework for an Economic and Partnership Agreement with the countries concerned. For details, please refer to summary of the Commission's initial proposal of 16/12/2008.

To recall, this interim agreement concerns trade and development cooperation issues between the Community and its Member States and the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

EC/Eastern and Southern Africa States (ESA) agreement: interim agreement establishing a framework for Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

2008/0251(NLE) - 16/12/2008

PURPOSE: to propose the conclusion of an **interim agreement establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement** between Eastern and Southern Africa States on the one part and the European Community and its Member States on the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the interim agreement has been negotiated to avoid disrupting trade with the Community on the expiry of the trade regime set out in Annex V of the Cotonou Agreement on 31 December 2007 and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) waiver covering that trade regime. These negotiations were concluded by the initialling of the interim agreement establishing a framework for an EPA on 28 November 2007 with Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe, on 4 December 2007 with Mauritius and on 11 December 2007 with Comoros and Madagascar.

As a result, 5 of these 6 ESA States (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe) were included in the list of countries in Annex 1 of [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1528/2007](#) adopted by Council on 20 December 2007 that have benefited from the Community market access offer made in the context of EPAs from 1 January 2008. Their inclusion on this list will become permanent following the entry into force of the interim agreement establishing a framework for an EPA. This will ensure a harmonised trade regime with the EU providing improved market access for all initialling ESA States, including the two countries recognised as Least Developed Countries by the United Nations. Given that Zambia did not table a market access offer, it was not included in the Regulation. As a LDC, Zambia continues to benefit from the Everything But Arms (EBA) trade regime.

CONTENT: the scope of the interim agreement establishing a framework for an EPA between ESA States and the Community and its Member States will be extended by the outcome of **negotiations for a comprehensive EPA** reached by December 2008.

The agreement currently includes all the measures necessary to establish a Free Trade Area compatible with the provisions of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994.

This Agreement also contains provisions on:

- rules of origin,
- non-tariff measures,
- trade defence measures,
- dispute avoidance and settlement,
- fisheries,
- development and administrative and institutional provisions.

The negotiation of a full EPA continues consistently with the directives for EPAs with ACP States adopted by Council on 12 June 2002.

The institutional provisions include an EPA Committee composed of representatives of the Parties to be responsible for the administration of all matters under the agreement.

Provisional application: pending the entry into force of the interim agreement (see COM(2008)0863) establishing a framework for an EPA, the interim agreement foresees the provisional application of the Agreement.

It should be noted that the European Parliament will be called upon to give its assent to the conclusion of the EPA.

EC/Eastern and Southern Africa States (ESA) agreement: interim agreement establishing a framework for Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

2008/0251(NLE) - 04/07/2012 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude the Interim Agreement establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement between Eastern and Southern Africa States, on the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, on the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: on 12 June 2002 the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations to conclude Economic Partnership Agreements with African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP States).

Negotiations for an Interim Agreement establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement between Eastern and Southern Africa States, on the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, on the other part (hereinafter referred to as the 'Interim EPA') were concluded on 28 November 2007 with the Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In accordance with the [Council Decision 2012/196/EC](#), the Interim EPA was signed with **Madagascar, Mauritius, the Seychelles and Zimbabwe** on 29 August 2009, subject to its conclusion.

The Interim EPA has been provisionally applied as from 14 May 2012, between the European Union and Madagascar, Mauritius, the Seychelles and Zimbabwe pending its entry into force.

The Interim EPA should be approved on behalf of the European Union.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was carried out.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 207 and Article 209(2), in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: under this draft Agreement, it is proposed that the Interim Agreement establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement between Eastern and Southern Africa States, on the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, on the other part, be approved on behalf of the European Union

Main objectives of the Economic Partnership Agreement:

- contributing to the reduction and eventual eradication of poverty through the establishment of a strengthened and strategic trade and development partnership consistent with the objective of sustainable development, the Millennium Development Goals and the Cotonou Agreement;
- promoting regional integration, economic cooperation and good governance in the ESA region;
- promoting the gradual integration of the ESA region into the world economy, in conformity with its political choices and development priorities;
- fostering the structural adjustment of the ESA economies and diversification including value addition;
- improving the ESA region's capacity in trade policy and trade related issues;

- establishing and implementing an effective, predictable and transparent regional regulatory framework for trade and investment in the ESA region, thus supporting the conditions for increasing investment and private sector initiative and enhancing supply capacity, competitiveness and economic growth; and
- strengthening the existing relations between the Parties on the basis of solidarity and mutual interest. To this end, consistent with WTO obligations, the Agreement shall enhance commercial and economic relations, support a new trading dynamic between the Parties by means of the progressive, asymmetrical liberalisation of trade between them and reinforce, broaden and deepen cooperation in all areas relevant to trade and investment.

In trade terms, the specific objectives of this Agreement aim to:

- establish an agreement consistent with Article XXIV of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ("GATT 1994");
- establish the framework, scope and principles for further negotiations on trade in goods including **rules of origin, trade defence instruments, customs cooperation** and trade facilitation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, and agriculture, on the basis of the proposals already submitted; and
- establish a framework for and scope of potential negotiation in relation to other issues including trade in services, trade related issues as identified in the Cotonou Agreement and any other areas of interest to both Parties.

The Agreement also includes provisions to avoid and settle trade disputes between the Parties.

Institutional arrangements: institutional arrangements are provided including the establishment of an EPA Committee which shall be responsible for the administration of all matters under this Agreement, including development cooperation and for the fulfilment of any of the tasks mentioned in this Agreement.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: the proposal has no implications for the EU budget.