



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

PRESS RELEASE

European Parliament Committee on International Trade Delegation in Kenya 20-21 March

A delegation of eight Members of International Trade Committee (INTA) of the European Parliament will be visiting Kenya on 20-21 March. The delegation, led by the Chairman of the Committee, Prof Vital MOREIRA, will be continuing its visit to East-Africa with a visit to Zambia (22 March) before returning to Europe.

The main purposes of this mission are: to monitor the progress in the negotiations towards Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the East African Community (EAC) and the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) and to identify the concerns of the countries involved, the chances of success in concluding the negotiations and the expected impact of the agreements.

In Nairobi the Members of the European Parliament will meet with Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Moses M. WETANG'ULA, PS Abdulrazaq Adan ALI of the Ministry of Trade, Hon. C. OKEMO, Chairman of the Finance, Planning & Trade Parliamentary Committee and other members of the committee of Kenyan Parliament, and representatives from business, trade organisations, trade unions and other civil society organisations.

The delegation will in the afternoon of 21 March also visit a local hospital, meeting with doctors and patients to discuss issues related to access to medicines. Access to affordable and reliable medicines is key to a healthy society, particularly in developing countries. INTA members want to hear from Kenyans how these problems affect them and what they think should be done about it.

Economic Partnership Agreements

After considerable delays in the negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements in the past years, the negotiations which ESA and EAC were re-launched in 2011 with a shared ambition to conclude these negotiations this year.

INTA monitors the negotiations and regularly discusses the progress in the negotiations with the EU negotiator (European Commission). At the end of the process, when the EPA negotiations will have been successfully concluded, the INTA Committee will assess the agreement on behalf of the European Parliament. The consent of the European Parliament will be needed for the agreement to be ratified on European side.

EU Trade policy

The delegation visit will also be an opportunity to discuss legislative proposals currently on the agenda of the INTA committee and which directly affect the Kenya's and the region's conditions for trading with the EU. One point in case is the revision of the Scheme of generalised tariff preferences (GSP) to focus trade preferences upon the countries that most need it. Also, the amendment of the Market Access Regulation will allow for the eventual withdrawal of trade concessions from countries that negotiated but have not yet ratified the IEPA, as is the case for Kenya.

Kenya and Zambia

INTA members decided to visit Kenya and Zambia because these countries currently hold the respective chair of EAC and ESA.

For more information, please contact:

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