



European Union – Republic of Seychelles

22 July 2015

Joint press release

The European Union (EU) supports Seychelles to address the immediate needs arising from the Economic Partnership Agreement.

The EU and the Government launched today a Programme representing an envelope of more than 760 000 euros (around 11 million rupees) intended to provide public and private sectors with specific measures to respond to the needs of the country in its process of trade liberalization in the framework of the Agreement between the EU and the Eastern and Southern Africa region. .

The European Union signed an interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with some countries of the Eastern and Southern Africa region, namely Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius and Zimbabwe in 2009. The agreement came into provisional application since 2012. This represents a major step in the direction of trade liberalization within this part of the world. The Economic Partnership Agreement process is intended to support existing regional integration dynamics, by triggering reforms, developing trade and thereby promoting inclusive and sustainable development. The EPA aims at supporting a progressive opening up of markets between trading 'partners' which will no longer be based on any preferential trade regimes but rather on free market access, product and price competitiveness, and adherence to set norms and standards.

Financed under the 10th European Development Fund Regional Integration Support Programme (RISP 3), the activities to be implemented through this Programme aim precisely at assisting both government and private sector organisations in meeting the new requirements of a liberalized market.

The foreseen activities are wide-ranging, covering the entire 'product-chain', from identification of new niche exports products in which the country has a comparative advantage, to the accreditation of the institutions such as the Seychelles Standards Bureau which can stamp the product as compliant to norms for its safe entry in the regional and European markets. Since trade also concerns imports, the capacity of institutions such as the Seychelles Revenue Commission will also be reinforced so as to ensure a faster and more efficient treatment of imports, via the acquisition of a pallet scanner at the Customs. Sensitive to public health concerns, local capacities in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards

will also be reinforced via the procurement of equipment for the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture. A feasibility study on the creation of an SME Incubator Centre is foreseen, together with the reinforcement of the capacity of the current SME Centre.

According to the Acting EU Head of Delegation, Aldo DELL'ARICCIA,

–"The Programme launched today is just the beginning of a series of targeted support that the European Union is putting at the disposal of EPA signatory countries. Only a few weeks ago, the EU signed the 11th EDF Regional Indicative Programme with the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Regions, where further financial provisions have been made – up to the tune of 40 million euros – to the four countries signatory of the iEPA, namely Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius and Zimbabwe, with the objective of continuing the support in the implementation of the EU-ESA Economic Partnership Agreement provisions."

For more information please contact:



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