



P R E S S R E L E A S E

22 May, 2018

For Immediate Release

European Union will hold EU-Fiji Trade Seminar to Promote Fijian Export to Europe

Suva, Fiji – A trade seminar to explore the benefits of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Union (EU), Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG) to local producers and exporters will be hosted by the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific in collaboration with the School of Economics at The University of the South Pacific on 25th May, 2018.

The Seminar titled *Doing Business with Europe: How your business can benefit from the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)*, will be hosted at the Faculty of Business and Economics, Postgraduate Lecture Theatre, The University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva.

Ahead of the seminar, the EU Ambassador to Fiji and the Pacific, H.E. Julian Wilson said: *"The European Union (EU) is the world's largest single market and the EPA provides for free access into the EU for products from Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG). In the Pacific region, Papua New Guinea has already ratified this Agreement and implementation is on-going. This market access advantage in PNG has triggered five new investments that have generated 50,000 new jobs, many of them for women. Fiji has signed the EPA and, once it effectively implements and ratifies, it will be able to enjoy similar advantages. For example, duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market for processed fish, regardless of where that fish is caught."*

"In the Pacific, Fiji is one of the largest trading partners of the EU. Fiji's main exports to the EU are raw cane sugar, other agricultural products and fish. Fiji's decision to ratify the EPA will be another very significant step in strengthening our economic links. This Agreement is a true partnership for trade and development. The EPA is one of the EU's main tools to assist developing countries, such as Fiji, on their path to economic growth and diversification of their economies." added Ambassador Wilson.

The half day event targets Fijian businesses, students, media and wider public giving them a valuable occasion to learn about the EPA and the opportunities it presents as well as to exchange views with representatives from the EU and its Member States, PNG, local businesses and academia.



Delegation of the European Union for
the Pacific
Level 6, Tappoo City Complex
Corner of Scott & Usher Streets
Suva, FIJI
Private Mail Bag, G.P.O. Suva
Phone: (679) 331.3633
Fax: (679) 330.0370
URL:
<http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/fiji>



"The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".

Background on Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between EU, Fiji and PNG

The Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and regions aim at promoting ACP-EU trade – and ultimately contribute, through trade and investment, to sustainable development and poverty reduction. The EPA between the EU and Pacific ACP States was signed by Papua New Guinea in July 2009 and by Fiji in December 2009. The European Parliament approved the Agreement in January 2011 and Papua New Guinea ratified it in May 2011. Fiji notified about the provisional application of the Agreement in 2014 and the implementation is on-going, but it yet to ratify the EPA.

This Agreement is also open to other Pacific ACP States that wish to join. Samoa has already concluded negotiations with the European Commission on its Market Access Offer for accession to the EU-Pacific Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). Currently, Samoa made products can enter the EU market duty-free and quota-free until the end of December 2018 when the transitional arrangement for Samoa due to graduation from Least Developing Country (LDC) status will expires. Samoa's accession to the EPA will ensure minimal disruption to Samoa's exports to the EU market.

ENDS

Contact: Mohammed Nazeem Kasim, EU & Information Press Officer. Tel: +679 331-3633. Email: Mohammed-Nazeem.KASIM@eeas.europa.eu