

Quarterly BIEAC Project Status Report: April – June 2009

Building an Inclusive East African Community (BIEAC) project was launched by CUTS International in December 2008 with the assistance of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Germany. This is the second quarterly report on its activities.

In the period April – June 2009, the research component in the first phase of the BIEAC project was completed. A regional workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 27-28 April 2009, to discuss the research. The following research papers were presented:

- Trade in Services and Market Access under EPAs: The way forward for EAC.
- Export Taxes and EPAs: Another Policy Tool under Threat from the EC?
- The Most favoured Nation provision in the EC-EAC EPA and its implications.
- EU-EAC Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations current status.
- Safeguarding the Agriculture sector within the EAC region in relation to the EAC-EC EPA negotiations: case study of Rwanda.
- Revenue Implications of the EC-EAC EPA: the case of Tanzania.
- Analysis of the EC-EAC EPA SPS Provisions; Challenges and Opportunities for the EAC.

The findings in the above research papers were debated by the participants and factored into the final versions of the papers. Research outputs and the regional workshop report are available at http://www.cuts-grc.org/pdf/GRC-BIEAC_RegionalWorkshopReport-Apr27-28_2009.pdf.

During this period a number of Trade guides and briefing papers have also been produced. These will be used in both advocacy and awareness raising activities under the project.

Activities in the next phase will include: networking with stakeholders to disseminate the research findings; collecting views from the different stakeholders for inclusion in the advocacy component of the project; finalisation of rest of the briefing papers, trade guides and civil society position papers; holding awareness raising events in different parts of each of the EAC member countries; holding a national workshop in four of the EAC member countries; and steps to educate the wider community in the EAC region on the EPA issues.

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