



## Quarterly BIEAC Project Status Report: March 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.

The BIEAC project is well under way, with the main activities being the organisation of Awareness Workshops and undertaking research on selected topics.

The first awareness workshops were successfully held in February 2009 in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Workshops in Burundi and Rwanda are scheduled in early April 2009.

Research has commenced on seven (7) topics regarding the EC/EAC EPA, envisaged to be completed by the end of March/early April 2009. The research work is being undertaken by research partners from the EAC member states as well by the relevant experts in CUTS International. Input from legal experts will also be utilised to review the issues discussed. The topics covered and those undertaking the work are indicated below:

Topic	Research Institution or Coordinating Organisation	Lead Researcher
MFN clause and its implications	CUTS GRC	Julian Mukiibi
SPS provisions in the EPA	CUTS NRC	Gloria Otieno
Export Taxes	CUTS LRC	Richard Watts
Services sector in the EPA	CUTS LRC	Gideon Rabinowitz
Safeguards and Infant Industries	ACORD	Francois Munyentwari
State of Play and Revenue Implications	ESRF	Monica Hangi
Rules of Origin provisions	ACTADE	Elly Twineyo

Arrangements are simultaneously underway to hold National Workshops in all the five EAC member states where the draft research papers will be presented, discussed and inputs obtained from participants.

The revised papers will be presented in the Regional Advocacy Workshop on 27-28 April 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya. Participants from all the five EAC member countries will share their experiences, and research outputs will be finalised for further advocacy related work at the national level.

*For more information, contact:*

**Atul Kaushik**, Director, CUTS Geneva Resource Centre  
([www.cuts-international.org/grc](http://www.cuts-international.org/grc)), at  
Email: [ak@cuts.org](mailto:ak@cuts.org), or phone +41.22.734.6080