



## **JOINT OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS**

### **6<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UNDER THE EU-SADC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA)**

**19-20 February 2020, Brussels, Belgium**

#### **1. Corrigendum to the EU-SADC EPA**

The Trade and Development Committee (TDC) endorsed a draft Joint Council Decision on a corrigendum to the EPA (Appendix 1). It recommended to the Joint Council that its adoption takes place in accordance with Article 8(4) of the Rules of Procedure of the Joint Council (written procedure).

#### **2. Participation of non-state actors in the implementation of the EU-SADC EPA**

The TDC took note of the fact that SADC EPA States will, in May 2020, soon after their co-ordination meeting, send a counterproposal on the EU non-paper of February 2020. The TDC also agreed on the establishment of an ad-hoc special technical group, comprised of representatives of the EU and the SADC EPA States and coordinated by the TDC Secretariat, charged with the organisation of the first annual meeting of non-state actors and with developing the principles that will govern the functioning of those annual meetings of non-state actors. The special technical group will immediately after reception of the response from the SADC EPA States start discussing the principles governing the functioning of the first annual meeting of non-state actors. The TDC further agreed that the first annual meeting of non-state actors will take place back-to-back to the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TDC, indicatively planned for October 2020.

#### **3. EU-SADC EPA Monitoring and Evaluation System**

The TDC agreed on a list of monitoring indicators and on the principles of the monitoring and evaluation process (Appendix 2). The EU proposed two additional indicators on trade and sustainable development. The SADC EPA States will by May revert on two outstanding issues: the two additional indicators and on whether the report should become public. An ad-hoc special technical group will continue discussions on this issue, in particular with regard to capacity building and the baseline data for monitoring. A first meeting via video or teleconference will take place within three months from this TDC meeting.

#### **4. Review of the EU-SADC EPA**

The Parties agreed that by October 2021 they would launch a process for reviewing the Agreement. To this end, the TDC decided to establish an ad-hoc special technical group that would map the format and possible substance of the review. It will be the same technical group that will be in charge of the involvement of non-state actors and of monitoring and evaluating the EPA. The special technical group will hold regular meetings via teleconference or video conference and report at the 7<sup>th</sup>

meeting of the TDC. The Parties noted that the first monitoring and evaluation report and the presentation of the EU-SADC EPA at the WTO could feed into the review process. Considerations will also be given to the outcome of the negotiations on a post-Cotonou partnership agreement.

#### **5. Angola's request for accession to the EU-SADC EPA**

The TDC took note of the request for starting accession negotiations from Angola and of a draft roadmap for this accession process presented by the EU. The SADC EPA States committed to reverting to the EU on this matter by end of March 2020, by letter from the SADC EPA Coordinator to the EU Chair of the TDC. Once agreement has been reached on Angola's request for accession, the aim will be to circulate a draft Decision on Angola's Accession for adoption by the Joint Council through written procedure as early as possible (Appendix 3).

#### **6. SACU safeguard measure against EU poultry**

The TDC took note of the fact that a SACU Ministerial meeting would take place on 3 April 2020 and would discuss the EU proposals for a negotiated solution to the dispute settlement process regarding the SACU safeguard measure against EU poultry. The EU stressed the urgency of the matter in view of the fact that the formal dispute settlement consultations took place in September 2019.

#### **7. Reference quantities of the agricultural safeguard (Article 35)**

The TDC endorsed the attached language (Appendix 4) of a future Joint Council decision on the update of the reference quantities of certain products covered by Article 35 of the EPA (agricultural safeguard). The SADC EPA Group emphasised the urgency of the adoption of the decision to enable implementation of Article 35 of the EU-SADC EPA. The aim is to adopt a future Joint Council decision through written procedure as early as possible.

#### **8. Allocation and re-allocation of SACU Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs)**

The EU confirmed the reception of data on the re-allocation of the SACU TRQs for September-December 2019 and on the allocation of TRQs for 2020 and confirmed its acceptance of these allocations. The Parties also underlined the importance of receiving regular updates about the use of TRQs.

#### **9. National EPA Implementation Plans**

The TDC took note of the state of play of adoption and implementation of the National EPA Implementation Plans by individual SADC EPA states and underlined their importance. The Committee also underscored the need to align the existing and upcoming EU-funded projects to the National EPA Implementation Plans.

#### **10. Trade and Sustainable Development**

The TDC took note of a presentation by the EU on the recently-adopted European Green Deal and of the EU's intention to engage at bilateral level with third countries on areas of common interest to move forward on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The TDC agreed that discussions in the context of the EPA's Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter would take place on a regular basis.

#### **11. EU-SADC EPA Agricultural Partnership**

The TDC took note of the report of the meeting of the EU-SADC Agricultural Partnership that took place on the 19th February 2020. The SADC EPA States committed to submitting draft rules of procedure and a proposal on the priority issues to be covered by the Agricultural Partnership.

## **12. Special Committee on Customs and Trade Facilitation**

The TDC took note of the report of the third meeting of the Special Committee on Customs and Trade Facilitation that took place on 17 February 2020 (Appendix 5). The Committee noted the endorsement of the rules of procedure of the Special Committee. The EU welcomed the intention of SACU to start cumulating diagonally and encouraged SACU to take the final necessary step for this to take effect. The SADC EPA States stated that they would, as soon as possible, submit a list of countries with whom they would cumulate diagonally. The EU also encouraged Mozambique to take the necessary steps to start cumulating diagonally.

## **13. Special Committee on Geographic Indications and Trade in Wine and Spirits**

The TDC took note of the report of and the constructive discussions at the fourth meeting of the Special Committee on Geographic Indications and Trade in Wine and Spirits that took place on 17 February 2020 (Appendix 6).

## **14. State-of-play on trade relations with third countries and on WTO reform**

The TDC took note of the Parties' respective ongoing and concluded trade negotiations as well as implementation of the trade agreements in place. In this context, the SADC EPA States requested to be kept informed about the future trade negotiations, notably between the EU and the UK. The Parties also exchanged views on their positions related to the on-going efforts to reform the World Trade Organization, including the unblocking of the Appellate Body.

### **Appendices:**

1. *Draft Joint Council Decision on a corrigendum to the EPA.*
2. *Agreed list of monitoring indicators and principles of the monitoring and evaluation process.*
3. *Draft Joint Council Decision on the opening of accession negotiations with Angola.*
4. *Draft Joint Council Decision on the update of certain reference quantities of Article 35 EPA.*
5. *Report of the third meeting of the Special Committee on Customs and Trade Facilitation that took place on 17 February 2020*
6. *Report of the fourth meeting of the Special Committee on Geographic Indications and Trade in Wine and Spirits.*

**Done at Brussels, Belgium, on Thursday, 20 February 2020.**