

STOP EPAs Day Statement

27 September 2007

The 27th September marks the fifth anniversary of the start of negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the EU and the ACP (African, Caribbean & Pacific) countries.

While presenting EPAs as “instruments for development”, the EU is pushing for agreements with far-reaching and comprehensive economic liberalisation terms. The EU proposals for EPAs would not only eliminate most tariffs on goods, but would also impose the inclusion of issues that go beyond WTO commitments.

Such EPAs will open up ACP markets to devastating competition from EU exports. This will lead to increased social inequality and poverty through the destruction of local industries and small-scale agriculture, damaging employment and livelihoods. The terms set within the EPAs will sharply reduce the necessary democratic policy space for ACP countries to regulate and to design their own national and regional integration policies to meet their development goals and needs.

In the face of the formal deadline of 31 December 2007, the EU is putting tremendous pressure on the ACP countries to sign EPAs by the end of the year, including threats to reduce development aid and increase tariffs on their exports into the EU market.

We condemn the use of such bullying tactics against many of the world's poorest countries. We strongly oppose the EU's demand for reciprocal trade relations between countries of such unequal economic strength.

We - social movements, farmer organisations, trade unions, faith organisations, and NGOs from Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific and the European Union - call on the EU to:

- not impose trade liberalisation and other ‘trade-related’ terms upon the ACP countries
- refrain from putting pressure on ACP countries to sign EPAs this year
- offer non-reciprocal alternatives, like an improved GSP+, and to ensure that exports to the EU from ACP countries will not be interrupted

We also urge ACP countries not to give in to EU pressures.

We demand that EU-ACP trade relations be founded on an approach that:

- supports sustainable development in ACP countries and the realization of economic, social, environmental, cultural, civil and human rights;
- is based on a principle of non-reciprocity and special and differential treatment (SDT) for least and lesser developed countries;
- recognises ACP producers' rights to trade protection within their own domestic and regional markets, as they and their governments judge necessary;
- recognises and supports food sovereignty of ACP countries; and
- endorses and respects the right of ACP countries to the necessary policy space to formulate and pursue their own development strategies.

Signed:

“Africa is not for sale” campaign, Italy
11.11.11, Belgium

A Cova da Terra Asociación de Comercio Justo y Consumo Responsa, Spain
Aachener Suedafrika Initiative, Germany
ABUCO, Burundi
ACAPES SENEGAL, Senegal
ACORD (Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development)
Action for Southern Africa, UK
ActionAid International
ActionAid Uganda, Uganda
ADT-Togo, Togo
AEFJN (Africa-Europe Faith & Justice), Belgium
A.C.R & D (Africa Centre for Research & Development) Uganda, Uganda
Afrika-Europa Netwerk, Netherlands
AGEZ (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Dachverband von 33
entwicklungspolitischen NGOs), Austria
AIDC (Alternative Information and Development Centre), South Africa
Aktion Bundesschluss, Germany
Antena AEFJN Portugal, Portugal
APATAM, Benin
APDF, Togo
ARENA (Action, Research & Education Network of Aotearoa), New Zealand
ARSP, Togo
ASIAP/GIP - Bio, Mali
Associação Novo Renascer, Portugal
Associação Solidariedade Imigrante (an immigrants organizations), Portugal
ATC, Togo
ATTAC Austria, Austria
Attac Finland, Finland
Attac Germany, Germany
Attac Mallorca, Spain
ATTAC Spain, Spain
Attac Sweden, Sweden
Attac Vlaanderen, Belgium
Attac-France, France
AWEPON - African Women Economic Policy Network, Uganda
Banana Link, UK
BARATIYA KRISHAK SAMAJ, India
Both Ends, Netherlands
Brot fuer die Welt, Germany
BUACO (Bureau d'Appui à l'Autopromotion des Communautés de Base), Democratic
Republic of Congo
BUKO Kampagne gegen Biopiraterie, Germany
BUND (Bund fuer Umwelt und Naturschutz), Germany
CAD-Mali (Coalition des Alternatives Africaines Dette et Développement), Mali
CADTM, Belgium
CARD, Togo
Centro Cultural Africano (Setúbal), Portugal
Centro Internazionale Crocevia, Italy
CFAIB, Togo
CFSI (Comité Français pour la solidarité internationale/French comitee for international
solidarity), France
Christian Aid, UK
CIDAC, Portugal
CIN (Consumer Information Network), Kenya
Clarté Gothenburg, Sweden
CNCD/11.11.11, Belgium
Comhlamh, Ireland

COMITE DE LA SOCIETE CIVILE STOP APE/S/C CONGAD, Senegal
 Comm St Jan Amersfoort, Netherlands
 Coordinadora de ONGD de Euskadi, Spain
 COPE (Council of Pacific Education), Fiji
 COSATU (Congress of South African Trade Unions), South Africa
 CPDC (Caribbean Policy Development Centre)
 CRBM (Campaign for the Reform of the World Bank), Italy
 CTOP, Togo
 CUTS- ARC (Consumer Unit and Trust Society-Africa Resource Centre), Zambia
 CUTS-ARC (Consumer Unit and Trust Society-Africa Resource Centre), Kenya
 Das Hunger Projekt, Germany
 Defence for Children International Kenya, Kenya
 Desafio Miqueias (Micah Challenge Portugal), Portugal
 Dien H. Geest Brunssum, Netherlands
 Dien H. Geest Tilburg, Netherlands
 Dien H. Geest Uden, Netherlands
 EAFF (the East African Farmers Federation)
 Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
 EcoNews Africa, Kenya
 Economic Justice Network, South Africa
 EED (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst), Germany
 EIRENE International Christlicher Friedensdienst, Germany
 EIRENE Internationaler Christlicher Friedensdienst, Germany
 EurAc (European NGO coordination on Central Africa)
 EuropAfrica - Italian Support Group for the Farmer's Movement in West Africa, Italy
 Evert Vermeer Foundation, Netherlands
 FAIR, Italy
 Fairfood, Netherlands
 Fathers Mill Hill Oosterbeek, Netherlands
 FENOMAT , Togo
 FITUN (Federation of Independent Trade Unions and NGOs), Trinidad and Tobago
 Focus on the Global South, Philippines
 FONGTO, Togo
 Forum des Organisations professionnelles et syndicales sur la participation aux politiques de Peche, Senegal
 Fraters van Tilburg, Netherlands
 Friends of the Earth Europe
 Friends of the Earth EWNI (England, Wales and Northern Ireland), UK
 Friends of the Earth Finland / Maan ystävät, Finland
 FSEJ (Foundation for Socio-economic Justice), Swaziland
 Fundação Gonçalo da Silveira, Portugal
 GARED, Togo
 GARED (Groupe d'Action et de Réflexion sur l'Environnement et le Développement), Togo
 GATS Platform, Netherlands
 GENTA (Gender & Trade Network in Africa), South Africa
 Germanwatch, Germany
 GRAPAD (Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture et du Développement), Benin
 GRESEA, Belgium
 GSI (Gender Sensitive Initiatives), Kenya
 Human Rescue, Democratic Republic of Congo
 IBIS – Education for development, Denmark
 ICCO (Interchurch organization for development co-ordination), Netherlands
 IGO (Institute of Global Responsibility), Poland
 IGTN_ - International Gender and Trade Network, Brazil
 INKOTA, Germany

INKOTA-netzwerk, Germany
InterAfrica Group, Ethiopia
IRALE (International Research Academy for Labour and Education), Swaziland
Irish Trade Matters/Trade Justice NGO coalition, Ireland
issa (informationsstelle suedliches afrika), Germany
Jugend im Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (Young Friends of the Earth Germany), Germany
KASA (Kirchliche Arbeitsstelle Südliches Afrika), Germany
Kehys (Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU), Finland
KEPA, Finland
KHRC (Kenya Human Rights Commission), Kenya
Kindernothilfe, Germany
KOSA (Koordination Südliches Afrika), Germany
le Comité ACP-UE Guinée, Guinea
Les Jeudi de Cotonou, Cameroun
MAKSA (Mainzer Arbeitskreis Südliches Afrika), Germany
Mani Tese, Italy
MARCHES TROPICAUX , Togo
medico international, Germany
Mill Hill, Zambia
Mill Hill Arnhem, Netherlands
Mill Hill Oosterbeek, Netherlands
Miss van Afrika, Belgium
Miss van Afrika, Israel
Miss van Afrika Den Haag, Netherlands
Miss van Afrika Heythuysen, Netherlands
Miss van Scheut Vught, Netherlands
MS Danish Association for International Co-operation , Denmark
MUCAPRO, (Capacitación y Protección a la mujer y familia, Bolivia
NAD (Netzwerk Afrika Deutschland), Germany
NANTS (Association of Nigerian Traders), Nigeria
New Women's Movement, South Africa
Observatorio de la Deuda en la Globalización, Spain
OEBV-Via Campesina Austria, Austria
Oikos - Cooperação e Desenvolvimento (Portuguese Relief and DevelopmentNGO), Portugal
OIP/Kenya Oirschot, Netherlands
OJADEC-AFRIQUE, Togo
ONG AMADIP (Association Malienne pour le Développement Intégré et Participatif), Mali
OSDA, Togo
Oxfam International
PANG (Pacific Network on Globalisation)
PAPDA (Plateforme Haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif), Haiti
PASCiB (Plate Forme des Acteurs de la Société Civile du Bénin), Benin
PDAU, Uganda
Peace/Burkina, Burkina Faso
PELUM Association, Zambia
PLATAFORMA RURAL/ALIANZAS POR UN MUNDO RURAL VIVO, Spain
Plate Forme APE, Togo
PR Eersel, Netherlands
PR Helvoirt, Netherlands
PR Raamsdonk, Netherlands
PR Utrecht, Netherlands
PROPAC (la Sub-regional Platform of Peasant Organizations of Central Africa)
PSI
RJE , Togo
RK kerk Boxtel, Netherlands

RODA INTEIRA - Associação para o Desenvolvimento Intercultural (an intercultural development association), Portugal
 RODADDHD (Réseau des ONG de développement et Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie), Niger
 ROPPA (The Network of Peasant and Agricultural Producer Organizations of West Africa)
 RWANDA NGO FORUM, Rwanda
 Saipro Trust Fund, Tanzania
 SEATINI, Kenya
 SEATINI, Uganda
 Seeds Action Netowrk, Germany
 Soc. J.M.J., Netherlands
 Socialist Movement Indaba, South Africa
 Solidarité Socialiste, Belgium
 SOMO (Centre for research on multinational corporations), Netherlands
 SOS Faim Belgique, Belgium
 SOS Faim Luxembourg, Luxembourg
 Southern Africa Contact, Denmark
 Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken, Germany
 Stiftung Nord-Sued-Bruecken, Germany
 Tanzania Network, Germany
 Tearfund, UK
 Terra Nuova, Italy
 terre des hommes Germany, Germany
 Trade Justice Movement, UK
 Trade Watch, Italy
 Traidcraft Exchange, UK
 Transnational Institute (TNI), Netherlands
 Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa
 Trust for Community Outreach and Education, South Africa
 UDEN, Senegal
 Uganda Joint Christian Council, Uganda
 UGSC , Togo
 UGSL , Togo
 UN-Millenniumskampagne, Germany
 UONGTO, Togo
 Ursulinen v. Bergen, Netherlands
 VECO-Uganda, Uganda
 VEDCO, Uganda
 Via Campesina
 Vredeseilanden, Belgium
 WEED, Germany
 Welthaus Bielefeld, Germany
 Wemos, Netherlands
 Wereldsolidariteit / Solidarité Mondiale, Belgium
 WINFA (the Windward Island Farmers Association)
 Women On Farms, South Africa
 World Rural Forum, Spain
 XminY, Netherlands
 Youthplus policy network, Uganda
 Zimbabwe Netzwerk, Germany
 Zsr v. Schijndel Eindhoven, Netherlands
 Zsr v. St Jozef Heerlen, Netherlands
 Zst v. Schijndel Schijndel, Netherlands

