



*EUROPEAN UNION*

Delegation of the European Commission  
to South Africa

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## Press Release

.../for immediate release

### EU welcomes SA in the SADC EPA negotiations

***In response to a SADC proposal, the European Union Council of Ministers has agreed to include South Africa in the SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations. The EU considers that the incorporation of South Africa into the SADC EPA negotiations creates a more coherent framework for the economic integration of the region, which the EU strongly supports. Following the SADC proposal, the EU response also addresses the scope of the future EPA and the position of Mozambique, Angola and Tanzania.***

On the scope of the future agreement, the EPA should aim to provide for maximum market access into the European Union. So as to safeguard the competitiveness of less developed economies within a southern African context, more favourable treatment should be granted to these economies than to South Africa. Thus, for the time being, a differential trade regime should apply. Such a differentiated approach should also apply to new generation issues with a broader up-front commitment from South Africa, whilst regional integration in these areas will deepen over time.

Regarding Mozambique, Angola and Tanzania, the “contractualisation” of non-reciprocal duty-free quota-free access, as requested by the SADC, into the EU market for these countries is not WTO compatible. The EU invites SADC to jointly explore all possible options compatible with WTO standards, taking into consideration the legitimate concerns of these and other least developed countries.

Based on the EU’s experience with its internal market integration, in terms of the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people, the EU considers that the SADC EPA should not be limited to market access for goods only, while leaving aside all references to trade in services and regulatory supply side commitments (e.g. investment, government procurement, trade facilitation, intellectual property rights, competition).

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