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Coming soon

Launching of the first projects in
Gambia and Zimbabwe

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Foreword

Trade is a major driver of growth and development. It is therefore important for ACP countries, most of which are small and vulnerable economies which do not have large domestic markets, to enhance exports. However, enterprises in ACP countries are more and more marginalized from or remain at the bottom of global value chains with very low value-added products. This is linked to many structural impediments and supply-side constraints these countries are facing in achieving productive efficiency and competitiveness. On the demand side also markets are becoming more demanding as consumers place a high premium on quality, safety and innovation. With the gradual erosion of MFN tariff, non-tariff barriers have gained importance as instruments of trade policy. In this context, the importance of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment as major factors of trade facilitation in both domestic and international trade have grown in importance.

However, the weakness of the quality infrastructure (QI) institutions (Standardization, Quality Assurance, accreditation/certification, metrology services) in ACP countries and lack of their participation in international QI decision-making has created impediments for their trade with foreign countries and this despite

generous duty-free and quota-free market access to developed countries.

The TBT Programme was launched in April 2013 with the specific objective to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries and regions to improve their QI and comply with TBT on the external market as well as to define and enforce legitimate and adequately harmonised technical regulations on the internal markets. After only 10 month of operation we are glad to note that our outreach activities have generated a wide interest and led to a large number of expressions of interest by ACP countries.

Ambassador S.B.C Servansing, TBT Programme Team Leader



TBT Programme in brief

The ACP-EU TBT Programme has been set up to address the capacity building needs of ACP countries in the field of Technical Barriers to Trade.

The Programme financed under

the 10th EDF intra-ACP envelope and managed by a dedicated Programme Management Unit (PMU) has a provision of €15 Million, duration of four years (2013-2017) and is meant to assist ACP countries to:

1. Upgrade and Strengthen Quality Infrastructure;
2. Empower economic operators and ex- port sectors to comply with technical regulations on export markets and;
3. Disseminate best practices, results and experiences.

Expected Results

- Enhanced capacity of national, regional and continental quality infrastructure institutions to address TBT issues
- Broadened capacity of economic operators to comply with Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment Procedures
- Dissemination of best practices, results and experiences at intra-ACP level



Programme Beneficiaries

- All ACP States
- ACP quality and regulatory infrastructure institutions
- ACP Regional Organisations
- ACP Government Ministries and

departments responsible for trade matters

- ACP Civil society & Private sector organisations
- Other relevant stakeholders playing an active role in achieving the objectives of the TBT Programme



TBT Programme Outreach Phase

The Programme follows a demand-driven approach and during the first 6 months the PMU conducted several outreach activities to inform ACP Stakeholders of the opportunities under the Programme and to invite applications for capacity building assistance in the TBT area.

To this end the ACP-EU TBT Programme has organized and participated in a number of events in European and ACP countries, which have yielded fruitful outcomes in terms of requests for information or requests for assistance addressed to the PMU.



Among these events, two major regional seminars have been organized in the COMESA and ECOWAS regions in order to let the regions know about the existence of the TBT Programme, raise awareness and encourage the formulation of requests and projects.

In both regions the majority of the countries was represented and



expressed strong interest in the Programme at regional and national levels. In both regions, interest was expressed by both public and private sectors and focused on a number of areas such as: accreditation, certification, metrology, WTO TBT agreement, quality systems.



Word of DEVCO

Trade is a fundamental pillar of the overall ACP-EU Partnership. Jointly, the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission have played an important role in supporting ACP countries



integrate into the world economy. All-ACP programmes, such as the current “ACP MTS Programme”, have been supporting ACP countries in the negotiation and implementation of multilateral trade agreements. The “Trade.Com Facility” supported ACP countries define trade policies and negotiate effectively bilateral and regional trade agreements. While tariffs and quotas are being dismantled worldwide, standards and technical regulations are proliferating. Strengthening the competitiveness of ACP exporters will crucially depend on tackling these technical barriers to trade on local, regional and international markets

We are confident that the ACP-EU TBT Programme will have a strong and lasting impact by supporting ACP countries overcome this increasingly decisive challenge.

Mr. Patrick Polacsek, Regional Programmes Manager, Sub-Saharan Africa and ACP wide, DEVCO

Word of the ACP Secretariat

Technical Barriers to Trade is a category of non-tariff barriers to trade which includes measures relating to mandatory technical regulations and voluntary standards that define specific characteristics of a product such as: its size, shape, design, labeling / marking / packaging, functionality or

performance. These technical requirements are usually introduced by government authorities as policy instruments to achieve public policy objectives and among them we can highlight: protecting human health and safety, animal and plant life and health or the environment, or safeguarding consumers from deceptive practices. While serving these policy objectives, the measures nonetheless have a trade effect and can represent major obstacles to the trade of other countries. This is the challenge that the ACP countries are currently facing: how to pursue national policy objectives, without creating unnecessary barriers to trade for other countries while at the same time developing their competitiveness and expanding export potential in regional and international markets in full compliance with the technical and other requirements for their products. Therefore the ACP Secretariat is welcoming the ACP-EU TBT Programme, as a one of the key elements of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, and is confident that the Programme will benefit the ACP Group as a whole.

Mme Hélène Fiagan, Customs and Cooperation Expert, Department of sustainable economic development and trade

Word of AESA

The ACP-EU Technical Barriers to Trade Programme (TBT) is part of a long and strong collaboration with

the Secretariat of the ACP group of countries. For 10 years, AESA has implemented projects and programmes supporting the ACP Secretariat in several areas such as: capacity building, trade policies, international trade agreements, fisheries management, exports and international regulations. In the area of trade, AESA has implemented the Programme Tradecom Facility from 2005 until 2012 and in 2010 the company became one of the implementing partners of the ACP Business Climate Facility Programme, which aims at strengthening the business environment of ACP countries. This fruitful collaboration between AESA and the ACP Secretariat is now renewed for four years with the implementation of the ACP-EU TBT Programme. AESA is proud to put all its experience and knowledge at the disposal of the ACP Secretariat and countries to ensure the successful implementation of the Programme.

Mr. Gianluca the Vedova, AESA Managing Director

PMU Events 2013

PARTICIPATION IN THE 19TH ARSO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Yaoundé | June 2013

PARTICIPATION IN THE 7TH AFRIMETS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Lusaka | July 2013

PARTICIPATION TO THE WTO 4th GLOBAL REVIEW FOR AID FOR TRADE: “Connecting to Value Chains”
Geneva | July 2013



PMU Events 2013

PARTICIPATION TO THE STANDARDAYS CEN-CENELEC

Brussels | **September 2013**

PARTICIPATION TO THE 4th ACP OPEN DAY

Brussels | **October 2013**

PARTICIPATION TO THE LAUNCHING SEMINAR OF THE NEW HUBS&SPOKES PROGRAMME

Abidjan | **November 2013**

PMU upcoming projects 2014

Capacity Building to the National Quality Infrastructure and the enforcement of WTO/TBT Agreement

Zimbabwe | **2014**

Capacity Building for National TBT related structures

The Gambia | **2014**

Glossary

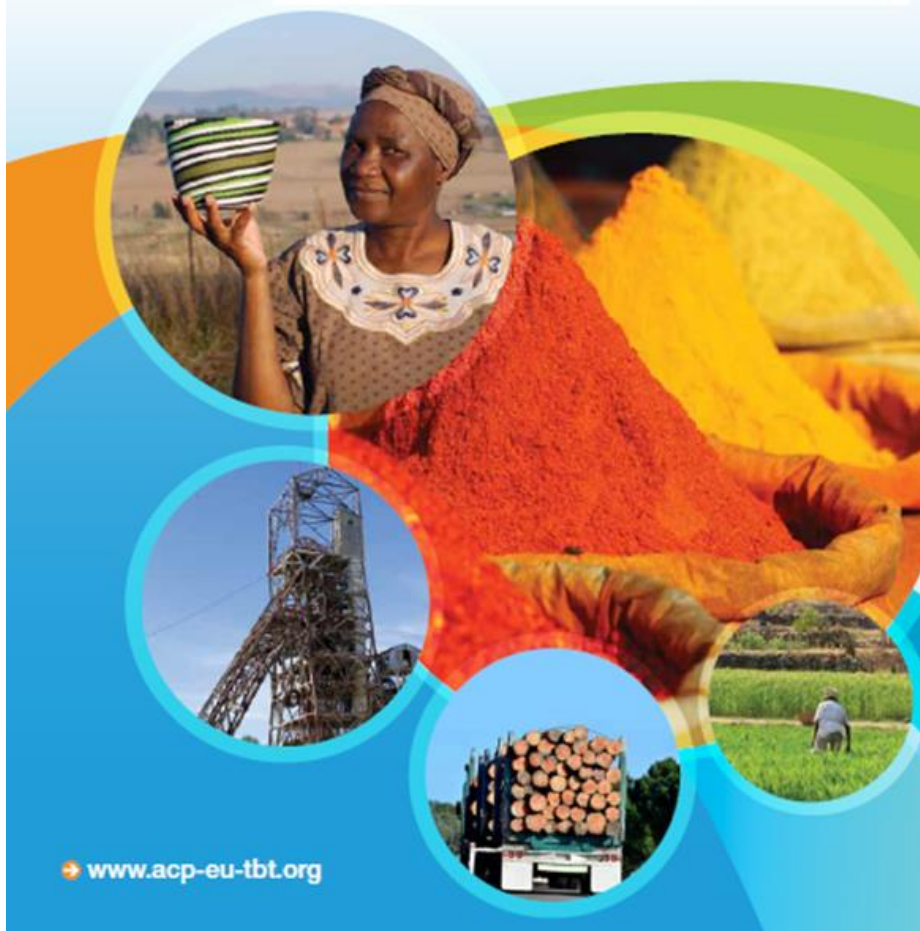
- **ACP:** Africa Caribbean and Pacific
- **AESA:** Agriconsulting Europe SA
- **DEVCO:** EU Development and Cooperation General Directorate
- **EDF:** European development Fund
- **PMU:** Programme Management Unit
- **QI:** Quality Infrastructure
- **TBT:** Technical Barriers to Trade



TBT PROGRAMME
OVERCOMING TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE



*WISHES YOU ALL
THE BEST FOR*



Additional information and application procedures for assistance can be found in the Programme Web site: www.acp-eu-tbt.org

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