



## REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Date: November 10-11, 2005\*

Venue: Glenburn Estate

Programming Note:

All presenters will be given a maximum of 20 minutes. As each session is 120 minutes long this should leave approximately 80 minutes of discussion time per session. Presentations should be as non-technical as possible, and make minimum use of electronic facilities (ie powerpoint). The purpose of this guideline is to maximise discussion and to keep it as far as possible within strategic parameters. Please note that all sessions will be held strictly under Chatham House rules to allow for an open and frank discussion.

- *Speakers and chairs indicated are subject to availability.*

### November 10th

09h30-10h00            Arrival and registration

10h00-10h30           Welcoming remarks

*Elizabeth Sidiropoulos (South African Institute of International Affairs)  
Stephen Hanival (Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies)  
Helena Mcleod (Department for International Development)*

10h30-12h30            **Session 1: Shifting Geopolitical Dynamics And EU “Maintenance Strategies”**

*In our rapidly globalising world countries are constantly adjusting their geo-strategic stances in response to new opportunities and threats. For a broader grouping such as the European Union, complex internal politics rooted in internal political and economic geography condition external policy thrusts. What is the nature of the EU's strategic response to the challenges posed by globalisation? Is there a uniquely “European”*

*agenda? What is the trajectory of EU trade policy and diplomacy? And where do the EU's relations with the ACP countries fit within this matrix?*

**The Trajectory of EU trade policy: Implications for EPAs**

*(Steve Woolcock, Head: Trade Policy Unit, London School of Economics)*

Chair: Tswelopele Moremi, Southern African Customs Union

12h30-14h00 Lunch

14h00-16h00 **Session 2: Decoding Southern and Eastern Africa's Political and Economic Geography**

*Our region is subject to similar forces shaping the EU's evolution. Yet regional responses vary, conditioned by sharply different economic and political circumstances. How is the region shaping up to meet those challenges? Abstracting from specific institutional settings (addressed in session 3) what kind of regionalism is appropriate to assisting member-states in their coping strategies? And what should the role of current and potential regional powers such as South Africa, Angola, Zimbabwe, and Kenya be?*

**Economics, Institutions, and Economic Geography of Regional Integration**

*(Francesco Rampa, European Centre for Development Policy Management)*

**Building Economic Integration: Regional Hegemons versus Non-regional External Powers**

*(Mills Soko, Hluma Research)*

Chair: Mr Juergen Lovasz, Political Counsellor of the European Commission Delegation to South Africa

16h30 Cocktail and **networking**

**November 11<sup>th</sup>**

08h00-10h00 **Session 3: EPAs and Regional Configuration Options**

*On the one hand EPA negotiations are placing considerable stress on regional institutions by obliging countries to align themselves with a negotiating group; on the other hand they present a historic opportunity to rationalize the problem of overlapping memberships in regional organizations. In light of discussions in session 2, what future institutional scenarios are desirable, and/or likely?*

**Future Institutional Scenarios**

*Regine Qualman, Trade Advisor, SADC*

*Talitha Bertelsmann-Scott, SAIIA*

*Stella Mushiri, Imani Development*

Chair: SA Department of Trade and Industry, tbc

10h00-10h30 Tea

10h30-12h30

**Session 4: What Role for South Africa in EPAs and Regional Economic Integration**

*Workable forms of Regional Economic Integration have remained elusive to Southern Africa. What kind of negotiating space do countries have to achieve their negotiating objectives whilst preserving a workable form of regional integration? South Africa's position within broader potential regional arrangements with the EU remains an obstacle in finding a regional solution regarding economic agreements with the EU. But would EU producers really be threatened if Pretoria were included in an EPA or EBA deal?*

**EPA Negotiating Options: Implications for Regional Economic Integration**  
(Chris Stevens, Institute for Development Studies)

**EU Producers: What Impact could they expect if South Africa is included in an EBA-deal?**  
(John Olympio and Peter Robinson, Consultants)

Chair: Peter Draper, SAIIA

12h30-14h00

Lunch

14h00-15h30

**Session 5: Bringing it All Together – Open Discussion**

Chair: Dr Eltie Links, Santam

15h30

Closure and Tea