



INVITATION TO A SEMINAR ON THE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (EPAs) AND THE FUTURE OF THE ACP

DATE: 13 JUNE 2013
TIME: 14H30-18H00
VENUE: ACP HOUSE, CONFERENCE ROOM
SPEAKERS: AS PER ENCLOSED PROGRAMME

South Africa, in its capacity as the Coordinator of the Southern Africa region of the ACP Group is hosting a seminar on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and on the Future of the ACP Group. This much-anticipated high-level seminar will assess the implications of the EU Trilogue decision of 17 April 2013, for the termination of Market Access Regulation 1528/2007 with effect from 1 October 2013. It will also provide a platform to exchange views on the current status of the EPA negotiation process in the various ACP regions.

With the expiry of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the ACP Group and the European Union looming on the horizon, the ACP Group is engaged in a dynamic internal conversation with a view to refashion and reposition the Group post - 2020. Internal and external factors driving this debate, as well as options for the future of the Group will be extensively examined by the seminar. This will include a perspective from the EU on how it envisages its relations with the ACP Group post - 2020.

Panelists include senior Brussels-based Ambassadors, senior ACP / EU trade negotiators / officials, and independent experts. A complete programme of the seminar is attached hereto.

Discussions will be conducted under Chatham House Rules. Please note that admission is strictly on a first come first serve basis.