

PUBLIC INVITATION
11th Public Dialogue on Trade

**End of current EU Preferences: What would be the Economic
and Social Impact for Namibia?**

26th April 2007 - 8h00 - 10h30 (Registration: 7h30)
Nampower Convention Centre, Windhoek

Introduction and Background

The Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF) in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung is organizing its 11th public dialogue on trade, around the theme of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) between the EU and the SADC EPA group. The EPAs are being currently negotiated in order to replace the existing arrangement under the Cotonou Agreement which expires at the end of this year as it does not conform to WTO rules.

The last Public Dialogue, investigated whether there were legal means to safeguard the preferential market access in the case of a no-deal-scenario. This next presentation is centered on the socio economic impacts of the possible end of preferential market access for Namibian agricultural products to the European Union.

It focuses on qualifying and quantifying the effects of the possible loss of current preferential market access to the EU on the economic and social developments of the rural sector of Namibia and the eventual loss of income and revenue to the Government. Moreover, the analysis will identify the economic and socio-economic importance of EU preferences including their relevance for employment, diversification, Government policies, and poverty alleviation.

If negotiations are not concluded on time policy makers can clearly see how to salvage the situation.

The Presenter:

ATF and FES have invited *Dr. Mareike Meyn* from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London to give her expert view on the socio economic analysis of loss of preferential market access loss to the EU and other possibilities that are open for Namibia to deal with this issue. Dr. Meyn is a Research Officer in the International Economic Development Group (IEDG) at ODI. Her research focuses on international trade policy, value chain analysis and sectoral studies in selected southern African industries, and regional integration in southern and eastern Africa.

Kindly confirm your participation with *Ms. Sylvia Mundjindi* before 24th April 2007 via E-mail sylvia@fesnam.org.na