

Hon/Dr / Mr / Ms:	
Institution:	
Fax-No:	

PUBLIC INVITATION
10th Public Dialogue on Trade

Will Europe be closing its doors for Namibian Beef?

14 February 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 organising its 10th public dialogue on trade on the possible end of preferential market access for Namibian agricultural products to the European Union.

The current agreement, under which Namibia manages to sell a substantial part of its beef, lamb and table grape production to consumers in Europe and earns a substantial amount of foreign currency, will expire by the end of 2007. It no longer meets the requirements of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Negotiations are underway to replace it with a new agreement, a so-called "Economic Partnership Agreement" (EPA) between the EU and a group of SADC countries, of which Namibia is a member.

Given the current state of these negotiations there is a strong possibility that no deal can be struck in time to meet the December deadline. If nothing else happens, this will then lead to the automatic imposition of high tariffs on Namibian agricultural products, making them no longer competitive on their most important export market. This, in turn, may well lead to a serious crisis in the Namibian agricultural sector.

It is high time that Namibia prepares for the worst by investigating legal and other means to be used to safeguard the precious preferential market access in the case of a no-deal-scenario.

The Presenter:

ATF and FES in co-operation with the Meat Board of Namibia have invited **Prof. Gerhard Erasmus** from the Trade Law Center (TRALAC) in Stellenbosch, South Africa to give his expert view on legal and other possibilities that are open for Namibia to deal with this issue. Prof. Erasmus is an eminent expert on international trade law, with a PhD from Harvard University in the United States who was born and raised in Keetmanshoop, Namibia.

Kindly confirm your participation with *Ms. Sylvia Mundjindi* before 9th February via E-mail sylvia@fesnam.org.na, by Tel. 061-237 438 or by fax (see attached confirmation form)

Please return to: Fax.No: 237 441

CONFIRMATION FORM

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Name:

Institution

I will attend the meeting .

I will not attend the meeting

Signature.....

Date:.....