



The 18th ATF PUBLIC DIALOGUE
Venue: Furstenhof Hotel
Date: 17 August 2009
Time: 08:30 for 09:00

**THE INTERIM ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH THE EUROPEAN
UNION:
WHAT'S IN IT FOR NAMIBIA?**

There has been a lot of public interest surrounding the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) that Namibia is currently negotiating with the SADC - EPA group of countries. There has not been a single day that passes without news on the EPAs. The EPAs had to be negotiated because the Cotonou Agreement was not World Trade Organisation (WTO) compatible, and the waiver that exempted the trade arrangement expired in December 2007. Namibia as part of the SADC - EPA configuration (comprising of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland) initialled the interim EPA in December 2007. Angola and South Africa did not initial the Agreement.

Namibia initialled the Interim EPA with certain reservations about concerns that had been raised throughout the negotiation process, and how these will be addressed in the context of the final EPA. The concerns revolved around the Most Favoured Nation Clause (MFN), infant industry protection, quantitative restrictions, export taxes, free movement of goods and definition of Parties.

The Agreement entails duty free and quota free treatment for all Namibian goods entering the EU market, as opposed to the old trading regime under the Cotonou Agreement, that had quota restrictions and duties. But what's in it for Namibia? What is the impact of the unresolved negotiation issues or concerns raised? How will they affect regional integration? What will the consequences be for the Common External Tariff of SACU and most notably the Common revenue pool? What will happen to the industries that were established based on the European Union markets such as the fish industry, the grape industry, and the beef industry, if this agreement is not signed?

It is for this reason that the ATF and FES are inviting the public to the 18th Public Dialogue. **The dialogue will be addressed by Mr Peter Draper, the Trade Programme Head South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).** Mr Draper is a Research Fellow and Head: "Development through Trade" programme at the South African Institute of International Affairs. His areas of expertise are trade and investment policy, and trade negotiations, with particular reference to the World Trade Organisation, the Southern African region and South Africa's bilateral ties with key trading partners.

Mr. Calle Schlettwein, Permanent Secretary with the Ministry of Finance will also be a presenter.

Kindly confirm your attendance with Ms. Rachel Shiweda via email: fes@fesnam.org.na or via Tel. 237438/223767