

- (c) the strengthening of the capacities of public and private stakeholders, including information and training, with a view to complying with the standards, regulations and measures of the European Community, and to participating in international authorities;
- (d) the development of national capacities for assessing the conformity of products and access to the market of the European Community.

TITLE IV

SERVICES, INVESTMENTS AND RULES CONCERNING TRADE

ARTICLE 44

On the basis of the Cotonou Agreement, the Parties shall take all necessary measures and cooperate in order to encourage the negotiation and earliest possible conclusion of a global EPA in accordance with the relevant WTO provisions between the EC Party and West Africa as a whole, in the following areas:

- (a) trade in services and e-commerce;
- (b) investments;
- (c) current payments and capital movements;
- (d) competition;

- (e) intellectual property;
- (f) public procurement;
- (g) sustainable development;
- (h) the protection of personal data.

The Parties shall adopt all appropriate measures with a view to encouraging the conclusion of a global EPA between the EC Party and West Africa before the end of 2008.

TITLE V

PREVENTION AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

CHAPTER 1

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

ARTICLE 45

Objective

The objective of this Title is to prevent and settle disputes which could occur between the Parties in order to reach, as far as possible, a mutually satisfactory solution.