

6. The Parties agree to cooperate with a view to alerting each other early when new regional rules might impact trade between them.

Article 42

Cooperation in international bodies

The Parties agree to cooperate in international standard setting bodies, including by facilitating the participation by representatives of the Ghanaian Party in the meeting of these bodies.

Article 43

Cooperation

1. The Parties recognise the importance of cooperation in the areas of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment as well as regards sanitary and phytosanitary measures for the implementation of this Agreement.
2. The Parties agree to cooperate, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, with the aim of improving the quality and the competitiveness of priority products for Ghana and access to the EC market, including by facilitating support, notably financially, in the following areas:
 - (a) Set-up of an appropriate framework for the exchange of information and expertise among the Parties;
 - (b) Adoption of technical standards and regulations, conformity assessment procedures, and harmonised sanitary and phytosanitary measures at regional level, based on relevant international standards;
 - (c) Building the capacity of the public and private actors, including information and training, with the aim of helping exporters to conform to EC rules and standards, and of participating in international organisations;
 - (d) Development of national capacities for the assessment of product compliance and access to the EC market.

TITLE IV

SERVICES, INVESTMENT AND TRADE RELATED RULES

Article 44

Building on the Cotonou Agreement, the Parties will cooperate to facilitate all the necessary measures leading to the conclusion as soon as possible of a global EPA between the whole West Africa region and the EC in the following:

- (a) trade in services and electronic commerce;
- (b) investments;
- (c) competition;
- (d) intellectual property.

The Parties will take all necessary measures to endeavour to conclude a global EPA between the West Africa region and the EC before the end of 2008.

On these issues, as well as on any other issues the Parties may agree on, the Parties support the negotiations of the global EPA on the basis of the EC-West Africa Road Map and subsequent developments since its adoption. They welcome a two-step approach starting first with formulating and implementing regional policies and building regional capacity, and in a second step, deepening the EC-West Africa trade provisions mutually agreed on concerning these issues.

This Article does not prejudice the position of the regional organisations on the above issues.

TITLE V

DISPUTE AVOIDANCE AND SETTLEMENT

CHAPTER 1

Objective and scope

Article 45

Objective

The objective of this Title is to avoid and settle any dispute between the Parties with a view to arriving, where possible, at a mutually agreed solution.

Article 46

Scope

1. This Title shall apply to any dispute concerning the interpretation and application of this Agreement, with the exception of Title II and except where otherwise provided.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, the procedure set out in Article 98 of the Cotonou Agreement, shall be applicable in the event of a dispute concerning development finance cooperation as provided for by the Cotonou Agreement.

CHAPTER 2

Consultations and mediation

Article 47

Consultations

1. The Parties shall endeavour to resolve any dispute referred to in Article 46 by entering into consultations in good faith with the aim of reaching a mutually agreed solution.
2. A Party shall seek consultations by means of a written request to the other Party, copied to the EPA Committee, identifying the measure at issue and the provisions of the Agreement which it considers the measure not to be in conformity with.
3. Consultations shall be held within 40 days of the date of the submission of the request. The consultations shall be deemed to be concluded within 60 days of the date of the submission of the request, unless both Parties agree to continue consultations. All information disclosed during the consultations shall remain confidential.
4. Consultations on matters of urgency, including those regarding perishable or seasonal goods shall be held within 15 days of the date of the submission of the request, and shall be deemed to be concluded within 30 days of the date of the submission of the request.
5. If consultations are not held within the time frames laid down in paragraph 3 or in paragraph 4, or if consultations have been concluded and no agreement has been reached on a mutually agreed solution, the complaining Party may request the establishment of an arbitration panel in accordance with Article 49.