

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the SADC EPA States, of the other part

PREAMBLE

PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM,

THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA,

THE CZECH REPUBLIC,

THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK,

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,

THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA,

IRELAND,

THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC,

THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN,

THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,

THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA,

THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC,

THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS,

THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA,

THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA,

THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG,

HUNGARY,

THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA,

THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS,

THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA,

THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND,

THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC,

ROMANIA,

THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA,

THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC,

THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND,

THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN,

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND,

Contracting Parties to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, hereinafter referred to as 'the Member States of the European Union'

and

THE EUROPEAN UNION, of the one part, and

THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA,

THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO,

THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE,

THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, and

THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

hereinafter referred to as the 'Southern African Development Community Economic Partnership Agreement States', of the other part ('the SADC EPA States'),

CONSIDERING the Parties' wish to further strengthen their trade links and establish close and lasting relations based on partnership and cooperation;

CONVINCED that this Agreement will further deepen and encourage economic and trade relations between the Parties;

DESIRING to create new employment opportunities, attract investment and improve living standards in the territories of the Parties while promoting sustainable development;

RECOGNISING the importance of development finance cooperation for the implementation of this Agreement;

RECOGNISING the efforts by the SADC EPA States to ensure economic and social development for their peoples in the context of deepening regional integration in the Southern African Development Community region ('SADC region');

CONFIRMING the Parties' commitment to promote regional cooperation and economic integration, and to encourage the liberalisation of trade in the SADC region;

RECOGNISING the special needs and interests of the SADC EPA States and the need to address their diverse levels of economic development, geographic and socio-economic concerns;

RECOGNISING the special circumstances of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland ('BLNS States') in this Agreement and the need to take into account the effects on them of trade liberalisation under the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement between South Africa and the European Community and its Member States, signed on 11 October 1999 ('TDCA');

RECOGNISING the special circumstances and needs of the Least Developed Countries ('LDCs') of the SADC EPA States through the use of special and differential treatment and asymmetry;

RECOGNISING the special circumstances of Lesotho as the only LDC in SACU and that the impact of the reduction of the tariff revenue as a result of the TDCA and this Agreement necessitates priority in aid for trade;

RECOGNISING the special circumstances of those SADC EPA States emerging from long-term armed conflict, necessitating special and differential treatment and asymmetry;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the Parties' rights and obligations in terms of their membership of the World Trade Organisation ('WTO'), and reaffirming the importance of the multilateral trading system;

RECALLING the importance attached by the Parties to the principles and rules governing the multilateral trading system and to the need to apply them in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner;

BEARING IN MIND the Partnership Agreement between the Members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific ('ACP') Group of States of the one part, and the European Community ('EC') and its Member States of the other part, signed on 23 June 2000 and revised on 25 June 2005 ('Cotonou Agreement');

CONFIRMING the Parties' commitment to and support for economic development in the SADC EPA States to attain the Millennium Development Goals ('MDGs');

BEARING IN MIND the TDCA;

BEARING IN MIND Parties' commitment to ensuring that their mutual arrangements support the process of regional integration under the Treaty of the Southern African Development Community, signed on 17 August 1992, as amended ('SADC Treaty');

RECOGNISING the particular case of the Southern African Customs Union ('SACU') established under the Southern African Customs Union Agreement, 2002, between the Governments of the Republic of Botswana, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Namibia, the Republic of South Africa and the Kingdom of Swaziland, signed on 21 October 2002 ('SACU Agreement');

CONFIRMING the Parties' support and encouragement for the process of trade liberalisation;

EMPHASISING the importance of agriculture and sustainable development in poverty alleviation in the SADC EPA States;

HAVE AGREED to conclude this Agreement:

PART I

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION

CHAPTER I

General provisions

Article 1

Objectives

The objectives of this Agreement are to:

- (a) contribute to the reduction and eradication of poverty through the establishment of a trade partnership consistent with the objective of sustainable development, the MDGs and the Cotonou Agreement;