

Ex-post evaluation of the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement

Workshop to Present and Discuss Preliminary Findings: South Africa, Eswatini, Lesotho

Place: Radisson Blu Gautrain Hotel, Sandton, Johannesburg

Date: 8 November 2023

Workshop report

Within the framework of the ex post evaluation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Union (EU) and six Parties from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a full-day workshop was held in Sandton, Johannesburg, on 08 November 2023. **The objective of this event was to discuss the preliminary findings of the ongoing evaluation of the implementation of the EU-SADC EPA since its entry into force in 2016 (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Eswatini and South Africa) and 2018 (Mozambique)**, focussing on the implementation and effects in Eswatini, Lesotho and South Africa. The workshop was attended by key stakeholders from government institutions, the private sector, and other non-state actors from the three countries. In total, 52 persons from 37 organisations participated in the workshop. Annex A provides the list of participating organisations.

Following the introductory remarks by Amb. Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter, Deputy Director-General, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, and Roberto Cecutti, First Counsellor, Head of Trade and Economic Section at the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to South Africa, the workshop programme was structured into three main thematic sessions addressing, respectively, the implementation of the EPA to date, its economic effects, and its non-economic sustainable development effects in its social, environmental, and human rights dimensions (see agenda in Annex B). Each session started with a presentation of preliminary findings by the evaluation team followed by a panel discussion. All presentations made by the evaluation team are available from the website dedicated to the evaluation¹ and are thus not further summarised in the present report.

Panel 1: Implementation of the EPA

Following the presentation of preliminary findings by evaluation team,² panellists provided their views on the implementation of the EPA.

Niki Kruger, Chief Director, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, South Africa, started by noting that while most tariff liberalisation under the EPA had been completed – also in view that South Africa (RSA) and the EU had previously had a bilateral trade agreement, the Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) – some gradual liberalisation was still ongoing in the fisheries sector.

RSA has benefited from the EPA to the extent that it has increased its exports of manufactured products. The majority of these products are exported to other African countries, followed by the EU, which receives 44% of RSA's manufactured goods. 45% of

¹ See <http://eu-sadc.fta-evaluation.eu/en/consultations/workshop-for-south-africa-eswatini-and-lesotho>

² See <http://eu-sadc.fta-evaluation.eu/images/za/ZA%202020implementation.pdf>



RSA's exports are minerals and metals, while 11% are agricultural and agro-processed goods. RSA would like to increase its exports of manufactured goods, raw minerals and metals to the EU, with discussions ongoing to determine how this can be done.

RSA has managed to achieve a positive goods trade balance with the EU for the last two years, and exports more to the EU than it imports. However, it continues to have a sizeable bilateral deficit in services trade

In 2021, about €12 billion worth of manufactured goods were exported to the EU. These are, however, concentrated on the automotive sector (vehicles and automotive components), with trade in automotive products benefitting both sides. If automotive exports to the EU are excluded, the export value of other manufactured goods has actually declined by 12% over the last ten years.

Lessons that have contributed to the success of the automotive industry should be adopted for other sectors of manufactured products, in order to increase exports of those products to the EU as well.

Another advantage of the automotive industry is that it is integrated within the SADC region. For example, RSA imports leather seats for its car manufacturing from Lesotho and wire harnessing for steering wheels from Botswana. RSA would like to improve this integral relationship.

There has been an increase of agricultural exports (e.g. citrus) in recent years. However, the EU has introduced more SPS measures, which has made it difficult for RSA to export agricultural products to this region.

In terms of areas for improvement, a better utilisation of the Trade and Development Committee (TDC) and other committees under the EPA should be found to address some of the SPS issues. Moreover, many of the SPS issues are not only an RSA problem, but for Eswatini and other countries in the SADC region that produce citrus and fruits as well.

There is also a need to streamline and harmonise the different EPAs within Africa with the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) in order to enable countries to export more within Africa and to the EU.

Muntu Almeida, Acting Deputy Director, International Trade Department at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade of Eswatini, noted that Eswatini used to trade with the EU under ACP preferences, which expired in 2007 but were transitionally extended until the EPA started to be applied in 2016. Eswatini's main exports to the EU include sugar, citrus, fruits and fruit juices. Its imports from the EU include medicaments and instruments used for medical purposes, such as machines, books, bottles and other commodities.

Benefits of the EPA for Eswatini include duty-free, quota free access for agricultural and industrial products, as a result of which e.g. citrus exports to the EU have increased. Conversely, challenges include, first, SPS measures used by the EU, which have already greatly affected citrus exports in recent times. Second, regarding TBT issues, the EU introduces new packaging measures at short notice. It is difficult for producers to reach out to their packaging manufacturers to change packaging standards at short notice. Third, sugar exports to the EU have declined because of preference erosion and increased competition in the EU. Going forwards, Eswatini needs to engage in and get support for carbon-border adjustment measures introduced by the EU in order to sensitise the private sector, exports and stakeholders to enable them to cope with the coming changes on this issue.

Mamoila Raphuthing of the Lesotho National Development Corporation started by observing that it is difficult to determine whether the EPA has influenced exports from Lesotho to the EU. Between 2016 and 2018 there was an increase in exports from Lesotho to the EU, from USD 230 million to USD 415 million, but there was a decline in exports after 2018. From 2019 onwards, the effects of the pandemic also hampered exports, although an improvement was noted in 2021, when exports reached USD 330 million again.

Lesotho primarily exports dried fruits, rosehip, diamonds, apparel and clothing, but the majority of its exports to EU are comprised of diamonds. Between 2016 and 2020, there was a significant increase in exports of dried fruits, apparel and clothing to the EU. Overall, however, there has been a steep decline of exports between 2020 and 2022.

There has not been much of a difference in the exports from the EU to Lesotho, and therefore it does not seem that there has been a significant impact of the EPA in this regard.

In terms of challenges related to the EPA, she noted the following ones:

- Existing foreign direct investors have shown little interest in the EPA and exporting to the EU and primarily export under the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) to the United States (US).
- Investors are primarily pursuing a cost leadership strategy as the US attracts high volume and low value products as opposed to the EU, which attracts low volume, high value products. Consequently, Lesotho's industrial structure, especially in apparel and clothing, is more aligned with AGOA and the US market.
- Lesotho has also experienced limited local participation, which can be attributed to limited market intelligence capacity and targeted support programming that could contribute to deliberate improved performance towards the EU.
- Limited global trading partnerships and networks are evident in foreign direct investment (FDI) networks, which make it easier to leverage their partner companies in other countries to secure orders and expand trade, for example.
- A lack of physical presence and foot soldiers in strategic locations, especially in the EU, has so far hampered Lesotho's exploration of opportunities under the EPA.
- SPS and other regulatory requirements also affect and limit the participation of Lesotho's local private sector in exports to the EU.
- Other challenges include logistical costs, a limited raw materials base for Lesotho and limited production capacity, which can also be aligned to the shallow nature of the EPA.

To enhance the functioning and impacts of the EPA, the following recommendations were made:

- There should be deliberate intentions and efforts to support and strengthen local participation.
- There should be niche market programmes, especially those targeting production of organic foods, for which Lesotho has a competitive advantage.
- There should be an active engagement of non-governmental and business-oriented organisations and experts to support the local private sector.
- There should be efforts to promote FDI from EU countries.
- Countries should ensure to harmonise legislation, regulations and standards in common areas of interest.
- There should be efforts to establish capacity building institutions, similar to the Southern African Trade Hub that the US established to support the African region to promote exports to the US.
- The hosting of business events in strategic locations in the EU should be considered and a physical presence in the EU should be established.

- Take advantage of strategic competitive opportunities tied to the EU market. For example, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) can be capacitated to produce low volume but high value goods, which fit within the EU's strategy.
- Harness comparative market differentiation and utilise it to leverage investment and trade growth.

In conclusion, the EU and the involved stakeholders in Lesotho should have deliberate intentions to promote trade and investments into the two regions. This should involve establishing the recommended institutions to focus and provide technical capacity, required by the private sector; facilitate matchmaking; harmonise the legislative regime; and closely monitor and report progress through dedicated platforms that can be held on an annual basis.

The intervention of **Mzimkhulu Sethetho of the Media Institute of Southern Africa** focussed on three main issues:

- Participation of societal sectors in the EPA to facilitate its effective implementation: Apart from the public sector, other sectors including civil society, academia and the private sector have not been included in the process of negotiating and implementing the EPA. Moreover, MSMEs are not aware of the EPA, which has impacted on its implementation.
- Consultations made to facilitate the implementation of the EPA: He noted that no effective engagement has taken place with business, civil society, academia and other sectors, which limits the EPA's implementation to the public sector.
- Awareness: There are hardly any media reports on the economic issues surrounding the EPA and regional integration. Citizens are therefore not informed on the benefits of the EPA, which has a negative effect on its implementation.

Drawing from these findings, he made the following recommendations:

- First, civil society institutions should be established under the EPA framework – civil society is presently not part of the EPA regime. A meaningful implementation cannot be achieved if other sectors are not included, such as women and youth.
- Second, a robust engagement of stakeholders from all sectors is needed, including civil society, women, youth, academia, to enable a comprehensive engagement of all sectors to simplify the EPA's implementation.
- Third, a public-private dialogue should be established that would engage all other sectors.

Stuart Mangold, Chief Policy Advisor: International Governance and Resource Mobilisation, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa, noted that the EPA has not contributed much to the progress that has been made on environmental issues in South Africa and the region. However, there has been progress in individual countries regarding environmental issues at the national level, through national laws and policies; and the regional level (SADC).

At the regional level, the SADC Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development was adopted at the SADC Summit in 2014. It is a comprehensive Protocol that deals with environmental management, climate change, biodiversity, natural heritage, compliance and enforcement issues. The Protocol also has a specific article on trade and investment, which is aligned with the overall objectives of the EPA. Therein, stakeholders are required to promote sustainable trade in business practices. Parties also committed to developing guidelines for mainstreaming environmental considerations into regional trade and investment. Member States should consider joint ventures in the environmental sector to churn sustainability in natural resources and other issues. Skills and personnel development and capacity and infrastructure building are also encouraged in this SADC Protocol.

There are other SADC-wide initiatives, such as the SADC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, which is in the implementation phase and was a response to the Paris Agreement. The further implementation of the EPA should take these regional initiatives into account.

The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is going to become a major factor in the trade of goods going forward. The first phase of CBAM has been implemented, and its effects on trade within and with the SADC region should be given due consideration. Compliance with the CBAM by South African business in the covered products and sectors, which will expand over time, will be difficult and require a strategic response.

Panel 2: Economic effects of the EPA

Following the presentation of preliminary findings by evaluation team,³ panellists provided their views on the trade and economic effects of the EPA.

Theo Boshoff of Agbiz highlighted the importance that the agricultural sector plays in the South African economy, employing some 1.5 million people, as well as the importance of exports for the sector, with more than half of the production (in value terms) being exported) and export-oriented commodities such as fruit, nuts and wine being the most labour intensive ones.⁴ Exports to Europe are particularly important – for most commodities, the EU constitutes the largest or second largest market (after Africa), with increasing export trends, thanks to the EPA. In addition, the sector has close linkages to the tourism and hospitality industry thereby strengthening services exports. He also observed that competition between EU and South African producers is limited because of the counter-seasonality of products, whereby production mutually enables shelves to be stocked in both markets all year round.

Following the start of application of the EPA, export-oriented investments in the sector increased substantially; many of these take years to bear fruit, and for a number of important commodities, such as lemons, soft citrus, avocados or macadamias, the share of planted area not yet in full production is high, reaching up to 63%. This means that continued access to export markets is required. He noted that investments were made under the expectation that the EPA would guarantee market access to the EU market. Nevertheless, SPS issues such as those affecting the citrus industry, TRQs (notably the distinction of quotas for bottled and bulk wine), increasingly strict requirements in the EU such as on maximum residue limits, as well as, going forward, the CBAM, are making market access more difficult and costly.

On the positive side, the importance of the EU market and consumer expectations about ethical production practices have led to investments into sustainable production practices in the sector in South Africa, as evidenced by the presence of several certification schemes. Also, the increasing exports to the EU (and overall) were not linked to driving up food prices domestically: domestic food price inflation has been reduced since the 1990s despite a rapid expansion in exports.

Dr Norman Lamprecht of NAAMSA started by pointing out the automotive industry's role in the South African economy: it accounts for more than one fifth of total manufacturing, almost 5% of GDP, and directly employs about half a million persons.⁵ Automotive exports to the EU account for more than half of the sector's total exports, and South Africa has a

³ See <http://eu-sadc.fta-evaluation.eu/images/za/ZA%203%20economic.pdf>

⁴ Presentation available at <http://eu-sadc.fta-evaluation.eu/images/za/Agbiz%20EPA%20review%20presentation.pdf>

⁵ Presentation available at <http://eu-sadc.fta-evaluation.eu/images/za/NAAMSA%20SADC%20EU%20EPA%20ex%20post%20evaluation%20workshop.pdf>

bilateral surplus in automotive trade with the EU. Trade is highly integrated, with components being traded in both directions. At the same time other Southern African countries, such as Botswana and Lesotho, are also part of the value chains, supported by the cumulation rules under the EPA. At the same time, going forward, the existing rules of origin do not appear to be adequate for the transition from internal combustion engine powered cars, which currently constitute the vast majority of South African output, to electric vehicles, as the use of batteries from countries without cumulation (e.g. China) would not allow preferential vehicle exports to the EU under the EPA because of the high value addition requirements. This would be an important area for amendment in the EPA.

Lesei Lesei of the Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) stated that the LCCI has proactively tried to involve the EU mission in the sector developments of Lesotho. He criticised that the EU wanted to engage with the private sector only through the government, but this has not been effective because there was a sense of suspicion about the private sector, which created a stumbling block for developing its economic and trade relations with the EU. Also, an average person from Lesotho is not aware of the EPA.

He considered that the EU failed to appreciate the differences that exist between a country like Lesotho or Eswatini and South Africa. The economic challenges in the former two countries are different from those in South Africa and should be considered in discussions regarding the EPA. This did not happen e.g. in previous support projects, where the assumption for project deployment had been that Lesotho and Eswatini were like South Africa. This is a misconception: South Africa has been exporting for nearly 100 years, while Eswatini and Lesotho are only starting to build their export strategies and are only starting to inform their people of the opportunities that the EPA may present. Lesotho is doing much to ensure that the private sector becomes investor and investment ready. National programmes are in place and the private sector is active in ensuring that they complement those programmes to and prepare SMMEs to be investor ready and leverage the EPA.

But open questions remain: What commodity advice can be given to MSMEs? How can the EPA and technical advisory be used to assist? The EU should develop more sensitivity to the development priorities of the different countries and align its mandate with the development goals of Lesotho; this is currently not happening. Lesotho's development goals include agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and creative arts and technology. None of these goals are being met by the EPA.

Also, a mechanism should be developed where the EU and SADC partners can have a direct partnership with the private sector in order for the latter to understand the EPA and leverage its benefits. On its side, Lesotho needs to develop trade journalism in order to engage the average citizen with digestible language.

Pamina Bohrer of the EU Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Southern Africa started by pointing out the importance of EU companies for South Africa. The EU has over 1,000 companies operating directly in RSA and it is directly involved in the creation of over 350,000 direct jobs. The EU is also the largest FDI investor in RSA, accounting for half of the FDI, compared to less than 10% from China and the United States combined. She then summarised a number of benefits and shortcomings of the EPA.

With respect to the benefits:

- The EPA has boosted trade on both sides. It is an asymmetrical agreement, which means that the EU has liberalised more than it is asking for in return from the SADC EPA States.
- The goods that South Africa exports under the EPA to the EU are more diversified than its exports to other countries.
- The EPA provides predictability and stability to investments.

In terms of challenges, the following ones were mentioned:

- One of the biggest challenges facing EU companies is the issue of logistics. There have been incidents where companies were unable to export their goods, and this is affecting EU companies as well domestic ones.
- A second challenge is the electricity crisis, specifically in the context of making the region attractive for FDI.
- The third issue concerns obtaining visas. Companies hire experts because they either cannot find the skill locally or because they have specific company knowledge and can do the transfer of skills and knowledge, but visas have become increasingly difficult to obtain in South Africa.
- A number of non-tariff barriers negatively affect trade with the EU. These include delays in obtaining letters of authority and permits; There are also issues with imports of food which is subject to quotas; and some TBT issues have also been noted, for example, regarding bottle sizes.

To address the challenges, a number of recommendations were made:

- Services and investment facilitation should be included in the Agreement.
- There should also be provisions that address issues of public procurement.
- Intellectual property rules should be enforced to protect brands and safeguard against piracy.
- Cooperation on logistics and energy should be encouraged.

Panel 3: Social, environmental and human rights effects of the EPA

Following the presentation of preliminary findings by evaluation team,⁶ panellists provided their views on the non-economic sustainability effects of the EPA.

Henry Mndawe, Ministry of Agriculture, Eswatini, noted that the EPA is expected to play a major role in poverty reduction by creating employment, particularly for people in the rural areas. The Government (of Eswatini) has taken initiative to create rural jobs in order to limit social issues, such as rural-urban migration.

With respect to environmental effects, he noted that, while trying to expand areas for production purposes, there has been a lot of bush clearing in Eswatini, which has presented environmental issues relating to biodiversity and land degradation. There have also been issues relating to the erosion of eco-systems, which are caused by the development of infrastructure in the rural areas. Other related issues concern the destruction of natural habitats. Eswatini has also been facing a challenge with land-use changes, where land is being used more for real estate rather than agriculture. Eswatini has prolonged dry spells and hail storms that destroy crops. There is a mitigation plan that needs to be implemented by the national disaster management agency to address such concerns, which still needs to be funded.

The involvement of civil society in the consultations on the implementation of the EPA has enabled them to be a watch-dog over human rights-related issues.

Going forward, it is important to consider the economic sizes of the different EPA Member States when having discussions on the implementation of the EPA. There is also a need to increase or develop the capacity of producers, in order to produce high value products that can have access the EU market.

⁶ See <http://eu-sadc.fta-evaluation.eu/images/za/ZA%204%20non-economic.pdf>

Lawrence Bale of the South African National Apex of Cooperatives (SANACO) called upon the evaluation team to not only undertake desktop research but rather reach out to the people. He noted that research that was done by civil society concluded that people, especially those in rural areas, have been able to survive with what is available to them. They neither participate in the EPA nor do they use it.

It is a challenge for the civil society to be organised and work with people from the rural areas. The issue of corporative development has taken shape and people are able to cooperate among themselves. Women are becoming part of the mainstream economy. The EPA should empower people to make them independent.

Mamosa Mohlalaba of Women and Law Southern Africa, an NGO based in Lesotho, noted a number of challenges facing the country which mitigate against its making the best use of the EPA: there are increasing poverty levels, high unemployment rates among youth and women, serious environmental degradation, political instability, gender-based violence, human rights issues, HIV/AIDS and high crime rates hampering development in Lesotho and also discouraging FDI. There are also undeveloped MSMEs that are facing challenges resulting from lack of access to markets.

In addition, the EPA is not user friendly, and small traders might not be able to appreciate or understand the opportunities contained therein – AGOA is more participatory and easier to understand than the EPA. Also, people in Lesotho are not aware of the EPA and seldomly use it. Therefore it has not benefitted informal traders and MSMEs in the country. On a more positive note, some positive developments have been noted stemming from support provided by the EU.

Tsotang Tsietsi of the National University of Lesotho argued that it is incumbent upon the private sector to utilise the EPA. Likewise, civil society has obligations to ensure that the human rights and the environmental impacts that are to be realised are actually being realised in practice.

Academia is an important stakeholder because of the unique role and functions it plays. For instance, academics are important in conducting research, analyse and interpret data and give advice and recommendations based on that data. However, academics also need to sensitize the public and the private sector by producing accessible research and information. Teaching and training in universities is also crucial to inform stakeholders about the EPA. This is an area, where not much attention has been paid to the EPA – in the curricula, other trade agreements are covered much more than the EPA.

In terms of recommendations, Lesotho needs to put policy and legal frameworks in place, which will enable it to benefit from the EPA. It is therefore important for academia to provide the research that will inform the policy and the legal frameworks.

Also, if the EPA is to be extended to the services and investment sectors, there should be sufficient capacity and trade negotiating skills to do so.

As a specific recommendation, the EU should consider emulating an instrument developed by the WTO to strengthen research and involvement of academia in trade policy matters, i.e. the WTO Chairs programme (the National University of Lesotho holds one of the Chairs). This programme supports research, curriculum development and outreach related to the WTO, but could, and should, be replicated with a focus on the EPA.

Dr Tinyiko Ngobeni of the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria emphasised the significance of incorporating human rights considerations into trade

agreements and highlighted that the EPA states require various forms of assistance to enable their citizens to fully enjoy their human rights.⁷

He highlighted the extensive framework based on the international and regional human rights treaties, indicating that the African region possesses a sufficient human rights basis. However, he pointed out that the primary challenges at the state level pertain to ensuring access to and the enforcement of these rights, particularly in the context of uneven levels of the rule of law in African states, weak enforcement mechanisms of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the lack of compulsory jurisdiction for the court and only eight states have consented to its jurisdiction.

He pointed out that while the EPA commits parties to enhance the role of trade and investment in sustainable development across economic, social, and environmental dimensions, it does not provide a clear action plan in case of potential violations of these commitments, especially with respect to non-state actors. He argued that the EPA can serve as one of the ways for fostering development if the EPA states are provided with various forms of assistance to enable them to implement human rights of their citizens.

Closing Session

The evaluation team informed the participants that a workshop report would be prepared and shared with all participants. The evaluation interim report, providing more detailed information on the preliminary findings of the evaluation than the summary that had already been shared with participants, would also be completed and published soon, and would be shared with participants; the finalisation of the draft report was planned for end February 2024.

⁷ Presentation available at <http://eu-sadc.fta-evaluation.eu/images/za/EU-SADC%20EPA%20Presentation%208%20Nov%2023-human%20rights.pdf>

ANNEX A: ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE WORKSHOP

Organisation
Actual Consulting & Advisory
Agricultural Business Chamber (AGBIZ)
Agricultural Magazine Landbouweekblad
Association of Meat Importers and Exporters South Africa (AMIE SA)
Belgian Chamber of Commerce for Southern Africa (BCCSA)
Cotton SA
Council for Geoscience
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
Department of Small Business Development (DSBD)
Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic)
Department of Transport
EU Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Southern Africa
EU Delegation to South Africa
Gauteng Growth and Development Agency (GGDA)
International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC)
Italian-South African Chamber of Trade & Industry
Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Lesotho National Development Cooperation
Media Institute of Southern Africa
Minerals Council South Africa
Ministry of Agriculture, Eswatini
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade, Eswatini
National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA)
National Consumer Commission (NCC)
National University of Lesotho (NUL)
Nedlac
Nordic-South African Business Association (NSBA)
Rhodes Food Group
South African Federation of Burial Societies (SAFOBS)
South African National Apex of Cooperatives (SANACO)
South African Revenue Service (SARS)
Spanish Chamber of Commerce in South Africa (SPAINCC)
Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal (TIKZN)
University of Pretoria
Western Cape Department of Agriculture
Women and Law Southern Africa
XA Global Trade Advisors

ANNEX B: WORKSHOP AGENDA

Time	Activity
08:00 – 08:30	Registration
	Morning Session
08:30 – 08:45	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amb. Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter, Deputy Director-General, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, South Africa Roberto Cecutti, First Counsellor, Head of Trade and Economic Section, Delegation of the European Union to South Africa
08:45 – 09:00	Introduction: Context, Approach and Status of the Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation by study team leader Q&A
09:00 – 09:30	Preliminary Evaluation Findings: Implementation of the EPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation by study team Q&A and plenary discussion
09:30 – 10:45	Implementation of the EPA: Stakeholder views <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations by panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niki Kruger, Chief Director, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, South Africa Muntu Almeida, Acting Deputy Director, International Trade Department, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade, Eswatini Mamoiloa Raphuthing, Lesotho National Development Corporation Stuart Mangold, Chief Policy Advisor: International Governance and Resource Mobilisation, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa Mzimkhulu Sethetho, Media Institute of Southern Africa Q&A and plenary discussion
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Preliminary Evaluation Findings: Economic Effects of the EPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation by study team Presentations by panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theo Boshoff, CEO, Agbiz Dr Norman Lamprecht, NAAMSA Lesei Lesei, Chamber of Commerce Lesotho Pamina Bohrer, EU Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Southern Africa Nduduzo Zulu, Rhodes Food Group Eswatini Q&A and Discussion
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
	Afternoon Session
13:30 – 14:30	Preliminary Evaluation Findings: Non-economic Sustainability Effects of the EPA: Social, Environmental and Human Rights Effects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations by study team Q&A and Discussion
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>

14:45 – 16:15	Social, Environmental and Human Rights Effects of the EPA: Stakeholder Views <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations by panellists:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Henry Mndawe, Ministry of Agriculture, Eswatini○ Lawrence Bale, President, South African National Apex of Cooperatives (SANACO)○ Mamosa Mohlabula, Women and Law Southern Africa○ Dr Tinyiko Ngobeni, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria○ Tsotang Tsietsi, National University of Lesotho• Q&A and Discussion
16:15 – 16:45	Summary Discussion <p>Moderated by study team</p>
16:45 – 17:00	Closing Remarks and Way Forward <p>Study team</p>

Moderation: Nthope Mapefane, University of Pretoria