



ROSA LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG
BRUSSELS OFFICE

Africa Department Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Berlin

Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Brussels

Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Dar es Salaam

**FREE TRADE AT THE CROSSROADS:
EXAMINING THE PAST AND LESSONS FOR THE
FUTURE**

18.-20.11.2014 / BRUSSELS

Warwick Barsey Hotel

381-383 Avenue Louise

1050 Brussels

Belgium

Interpretation English/German will be provided

The European Union has shifted to a new more aggressive trade policy regime. One of the key trials to the ACP – EU relationship in the last decade has been the protracted Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA). After twelve years of negotiations 2014 now presents perhaps one of the most challenging times as the EPA negotiations come to an end. The unilaterally imposed deadline by the European Commission has caused a lot of hectic negotiation activities in particular of those countries and negotiation groups who have no Least Developed Country status.

In line with the new EU trade policy contours, negotiations between the US and the EU on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) started in July 2013. While the consequences of the negotiations are difficult to precisely foretell, ACP member states will be affected whatever the outcome owing to the fact that there is most likely to be vigorous policy and regulatory reforms under negotiation in the TTIP.

The Rosa Luxemburg Foundation together with partners is organizing this conference in Brussels to continue the discussion on ongoing changes in the free trade negotiations, in particular its potential impact on East Africa. The conference is aiming to create space for discussion and discourses for different stakeholders (NGOs, academics, parliamentarians in Africa, Europe), to examine the ongoing dynamics in the Multilateral Trading System, and to discuss the role of transnational social movements, parliamentarians and other stakeholders in shaping trade and development policy.

Tuesday – 18 November 2014

11:00 - 12:00 SIGN IN / WELCOME COFFEE

12:00 - 12:30 **Setting the Frame**

Opening address by Klaus Sühl (Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung / Brussels) & Siegfried Schroeder (Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung / Dar es Salaam)

12:30 - 14:30 **After the Deadline and on the Pulse: EPA and the EAC**

Keynote address by Oduor Ong'wen (SEATINI Kenya)

Speakers:

Hon. Kabahenda Flavia Rwabuhoro (Member of the Parliament of Uganda)

Sandra Gallina (European Commission, DG Trade, Head of Unit ACP countries)

Francisco Marí (Brot für die Welt)

Facilitator: Mussa Bilegeya (ESAFF - Tanzania)

14:30 – 15:30 LUNCH

15:30 – 17:30 **Don't Look Back in Anger? EPA-Negotiations Over the Past Years**

Speakers:

Ruth Bergan (Trade Justice Movement UK)

Annette Groth (Member of the German Parliament)

Facilitator: Dr. Alexander King (Parliamentary Assistant in the German Parliament)

17:30 - 18:00 COFFEE BREAK

18:00 – 20:00 **Panel Discussion "Time Over or Overtime? - EU-ACP-Trade Relations After the Era of EPA-Negotiations"**

Keynote address by H.E. Ajay Bramdeo (African Union Representative at the European Union)

Discussants:

Helmut Scholz (Member of the European Parliament)

Catherine Bearder (Member of the European Parliament)

Hon. Joyce Laboso (Member of the Parliament of Kenya)

Facilitator: François Munyentwari (ACCORD Rwanda)

20:30 - 23:00 DINNER

Wednesday – 19 November 2014

09:30 - 10:00 WELCOME COFFEE

10:00 - 13:00 **TTIP Ante Portas – The Possible Consequence of a Transatlantic FTA on the “Rest of the World”**

(Coffee Break: 11.15 -11:45)

Keynote address by Jane Nalunga (SEATINI Uganda)

Speakers:

Bernd Schneider (Accredited Parliamentary Assistant in the European Parliament)

Lizzie McLeod (Tradecraft UK) (TBC)

Manuel Perez-Rocha (IPS)

Facilitator: Björn Aust (Parliamentary Assistant in the German Parliament)

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 17:30 **Perspectives from Other Regions on TTIP and Free Trade**

(coffee break: 15:15 - 15:45 pm)

Speakers:

Gyekye Tanoh (Third World Network)

Karen Hansen-Kuhn (IATP)

Lodwick Chizarura (SEATINI-Zimbabwe)

Sadok Ben Hadj Hassine (Chief Advisor Tunisian Trade Union Federation)

Manuel Perez-Rocha (TBC)

Facilitator: Juliette Majot (IATP)

20:00 - 23:00 DINNER

Thursday – 20 November 2014

09:30 - 10:00 WELCOME COFFEE

10:00 - 13:00 **From STOP EPA to STOP TTIP – Some Lessons to be learnt from an Almost Forgotten Campaign**
(coffee break: 11:15 - 11:45 am)

Keynote address by Samuel Kasirye (Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Tanzania)

Speakers:

Marc Maes (11.11.11-Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement)

Florian Horn (RLS Brussels)

Facilitator: John Mary Odoy (Uganda Joint Christian Council)

13:00 -14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00 - 17:00 **Free Trade at the Crossroads: Some Reflections on the Way Forward**
(coffee break: 3:15 - 3:45 pm)

Speakers

Hon. Mike Sebalu (Member of the East African Legislative Assembly)

Heike Hänsel (Member of the German Parliament)

Brid Brennan (TNI)

Facilitator and closing address: Dr. Arndt Hopfmann (RLS)

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