



PROGRAMME

Venue:

Hotel Sofitel

Wolmar, Flic en Flac (Mauritius)

Working languages: EN, FR, PT

Thursday 21/11

From 8 a.m.

Registration

8.30–9 a.m.

Opening session

Moderator –Jarosław Mulewicz, EESC member, president of the ACP-EU Follow-up Committee

- Introductory remarks – Vincent Degert, EU Ambassador in Mauritius, Head of the European Union delegation to Mauritius
- Welcome address – Jarosław Mulewicz, EESC Member, president of the ACP-EU Follow-up Committee, on behalf of EESC president, Luca Jahier

Group photo of all participants

9 a.m.–1.30 p.m.

Session I: Infrastructure, as a factor of progress

Moderator – Gunsham Seeborum, President of the Falcon citizen league

- Mainstreaming gender equality and women empowerment to improve infrastructure development impact, Fiona Gandiwa Magaya, Head of Education, Women and Gender department, Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU)
- Supporting the professionalisation of young people and companies in the transport-logistics-port sector of Djibouti, Mohamed Ali Hassan, Deputy secretary general and director of the Transform project, Djibouti Chamber of commerce

Coffee break

- Sustainable energy and water technologies through cooperatives, Nekemte Melaku, Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union in Ethiopia
- Agrivoltaism in Madagascar, an emerging system, Institut pour la maîtrise de l'énergie (IME), Madagascar, Professor Rakotomahevitra Andrianelison
- The importance of building consumer trust in B2C e-commerce, Xaverine Ndikumagenge, Regional Networker for Africa Hub, Consumers international

Debate with contributions from participants

1–2.30 p.m.

Lunch, at the invitation of the EESC

2.30–6 p.m.

Session II: A greater role in trade relations and regional integration for civil society

Moderator – EESC Member Ozlem Yildirim

Panel 1: the specificities of the EU ESA trade relations

- Women and Trade in the context of regional integration, Francis Mangeni, Director of Trade, Customs, and Monetary Affairs of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) - Recorded presentation
- Update and insights from the negotiations to deepen the EU-ESA Economic Partnership Agreement, Ewa Synowiec, Director responsible for sustainable development, European Partnership Agreements, Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission
- Renegotiation of the EU-ESA partnership agreement: the challenges for the ESA region, his Excellency Ali Said Mdahoma, Ambassador of Comoros to the EU

Coffee break

Debate on the contribution of civil society as a valuable partner to contribute to the assessment and monitoring of trade relations

- Facilitator, Kevin Ramkaloan, Business Mauritius
- Presentation of the upcoming Sustainability Impact Assessment accompanying the EU-ESA negotiations, by Lisa Eifert, trade affairs officer, Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission

Debate with contributions from participants

6–7.30 p.m.

Meeting of the ACP-EU Follow-up Committee

Friday 22/11

8.30 a.m.–12 p.m. **Session III: Towards a Blue economy?**

Moderator – Jacqueline Mugo, Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Kenya Employers

- The impact of climate change in the Indian Ocean Region and Natural Heritage, Batouli Said Abdallah, member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's task force on National Greenhouse inventory
- Resilience of the coastal areas of the Indian Ocean, Raj Mohabeer, officer in charge for economic and infrastructure development, regional integration and maritime security, Commission of Indian Ocean
- The challenges of the artisanal fishermen in the islands of the Indian Ocean, Darrel Green, Fédération des pêcheurs artisans de l'Océan indien (FPAOI)

Coffee break

- The contribution to sustainable fishing methods in the island of Rodrigues, Georges-Eric Jolicoeur, vice-president of the Rodrigues Council of Social Services (RCSS)
- Project of a wave power station, Oomarsing Gooroochurn and Murughen Sadien, Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI)
- Presentation of the EESC Exploratory opinion requested by the Finnish Presidency NAT/770 Blue Bio-economy, EESC Member Simo Tiainen

Debate with contributions from participants

12–12.30 p.m. Presentation and Adoption of Final Declaration and closing remarks by Jarosław Mulewicz, president of the ACP-EU Follow-up Committee

12.30-2 p.m. **Cocktail offered by the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius and to the Republic of Seychelles and lunch offered by the EESC**

2–6 p.m. **Field visits picking point: Hotel Sofitel**

- Albion Fisheries Research Centre
- Mauritius Oceanography Institute