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MEDIA RELEASE

SACU CUSTOMS UNION COMMISSION MEETING, 23 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2008, WINDHOEK NAMIBIA.

1. Namibia will be hosting the 16th SACU Customs Union Commission meeting from 23 - 25 September 2008. The meeting will be held in preparation for the SACU Council of Ministers meeting scheduled for Friday 26th September 2008, also in Windhoek, Namibia. The SACU Commission meetings are held on a quarterly basis, this is the last but one meeting for the year. The last meeting for the year will be held on the 02 - 04 December 2008.

2. The 16th SACU Commission meeting comes immediately after a successful SACU Council of Ministers retreat that was held from the 29 August - 01 September 2008 in Kasane Botswana, where SACU Member States (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa) reaffirmed their commitment to SACU's regional integration agenda. The Minister's retreat noted that for a long time SACU placed a lot of emphasis on the Common Revenue Pool and that equal attention should be given to the establishment of remaining SACU institutions (Tariff Board and Tribunal); SACU's developmental component, and SACU's common policies agenda as contained in the 2002 SACU Agreement.
3. Lesotho which assumed Chairmanship of SACU in April 2008 chaired the Ministers retreat and will for the first time, during her tenure ship as Chair, facilitate a set of SACU Commission and Council meetings.
4. In preparation for the Council meeting schedule for Friday 26 September 2008 the Commission meeting will clear the following items and initiatives to be tabled before the Council of Ministers:

- 4.1. The report of the SACU Technical Liaison Committees' (TLC) meetings held on 19 - 21 August 2008 in Mbabane, Swaziland. The SACU TLC include the Customs Liaison Technical Committee (CLTC); Finance Technical Liaison Committee (FTLC); Trade and Industry Liaison Committee (TILC); Agriculture Liaison Committee (ALC); and the Transport Liaison Committee (TLC). The meetings of the Technical Liaison Committees were preceded by a meeting on Infant Industry protection, a meeting of the Task Team on the calculation of 2006/07 Adjustments; a workshop of the Task Team on the harmonization of transport laws and road safety in SACU Member States.
- 4.2. Consideration of the draft report on the study on Rebates and Duty Drawbacks.
- 4.3. Progress report on SACU Trade Negotiations.
- 4.4. SACU obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO), in view of the upcoming SACU review by the WTO.
- 4.5. Consideration of the SACU Remuneration Policy following the outcome of the remuneration survey.

5. In addition to the agenda items coming out of the SACU Commission meeting the SACU Council of Ministers will preside over the recommendations, coming out of the recently held Ministers retreat, aimed at charting the way forward for the future of SACU.

END

SACU Secretariat
Windhoek
Namibia
Tel: + 264 61 295 8010
Fax: + 264 61 279 849
Mobile: +264 91 332 7662
www.sacu.int