



---

## SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION SECRETARIAT

SACU - Secretariat  
Private Bag 13285,  
Windhoek, Namibia  
Cnr R. Mugabe & S. Nujoma Avenue

Tel: +264 61 243 950  
Fax: +264 61 245 611  
Website: [www@sacu.int](http://www@sacu.int)  
E-mail: [sacusec@sacu.int](mailto:sacusec@sacu.int)

---

<b>External Document</b>	MR (3) 02/04/07
<b>Purpose</b>	Media Release
<b>Circulation</b>	All
<b>Subject</b>	SACU Consultations on Trade Negotiations
<b>Event details</b>	Held 26 – 29 March 2007 Walvisbay Namibia
<b>Date of media release issue</b>	02/04/07

Member States of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) - Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa - met in Walvisbay, Namibia from the 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 to discuss SACU's Trade Negotiations Agenda.

The meeting; which was hosted by the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Namibia in conjunction with the SACU Secretariat based in Windhoek, Namibia; was chaired by the Kingdom of Swaziland, who currently holds the Chairmanship of SACU.

The SACU Consultations on Trade Negotiations involved a meeting of SACU Senior Officials responsible for Trade from the 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 and a meeting for SACU Ministers responsible for Trade on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

The aim of the Consultations was to review and discuss SACU's ongoing engagement in Trade Negotiations with various third parties with a view to:

- Consolidate negotiation positions;
- Develop work programmes for SACU's ongoing and future trade negotiations; and
- Agree on time frames for future trade consultations of this kind.

The SACU Members States joint Consultations on Trade Negotiations have been an important part of SACU Trade Negotiations in the past and will, in future, remain a prominent item on the SACU Agenda.

Several sets of Trade Negotiations are on SACU's agenda. These include, *inter alia*, the resumption of the WTO Doha Round negotiations which stalled in July 2006; the SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiations with the

European Union (EU); ongoing SACU negotiations to finalise a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between SACU and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA); discussions with the United States (US) on a possible Trade, Investment and Development Cooperation agreement (TIDCA); the envisaged trade negotiations with India and SACU's trade liberalisation commitments under the SADC Trade Protocol.

Under the 2002 SACU Agreement, SACU Member States have agreed to negotiate future trade agreements with third parties as a block. In this regard the, development of a Common Trade Negotiating Mechanism for SACU as envisaged in Article 31 of the 2002 SACU Agreement featured prominently at the recently held SACU Trade Ministers and Officials Consultation meetings.

The Consultation meetings also deliberated on the progress with respect to the establishment of the SACU National bodies, SACU Tariff Board and SACU Tribunal, three very important institutions to be established in order to fully implement the SACU 2002 Agreement.

SACU as a block has already successfully negotiated in the SADC Trade Protocol negotiations. SACU as a block has also signed a Preferential Trade Agreement with MERCOSUR which

comprises of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay; and a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which consists of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Given the important role that Trade Plays in the economies of the SACU Members States, the SACU Trade Negotiators; SACU Senior Trade Officials and SACU Ministers responsible for Trade will meet as often as possible to ensure adequate planning and preparations for SACU Trade negotiations.

**SACU Secretariat  
Windhoek  
Namibia  
Tel: + 264 61 243 950  
Fax: + 264 61 245 611**

**About SACU:**

*SACU is a Customs Union whose Member States are Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. It was established through the 1910 Customs Union Agreement.*

*The 1910 Agreement was re-negotiated leading to the 1969 Agreement. The Agreement was further re-negotiated in 1994 leading to the current SACU 2002 Agreement that came into force on 15 July 2004.*

*For more information on SACU access it's website at [www.sacu.int](http://www.sacu.int)*