

**From the Lome Convention to the Economic Partnership  
Agreements: An assessment of trade relations between the  
ECOWAS and the EU.**

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for a Masters degree  
in International Relation, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

**February 2010**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank my family especially my sisters, Mephi Njoko and Sthembile Njoko, despite the fact that you had never had an opportunity to study at the University, you stood with me in difficult times, when most of my friends had turned their back against me.

To my supervisor Mopeli Moshoeshe, without your advice, clarity on important issues and professional direction this thesis would never have been possible.

## **DEDICATION**

To my both parents the late Gabisile Meltah Madela and the late Mavelempini Michael Mabele: You both gave birth to a man, *that did not allow destitution to be his decider, neither the deprived background to take him down.*

## DECLARATION

I, Mncedisi. I. Madela, declare that this Masters Research thesis is my own unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Masters in International Relations in the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination at any other university

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.....day of.....2010

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## **Abstract**

The continuous negotiations between the EU and the ECOWAS on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) started in September 2002, with an aim of completing these negotiations before end of December 2007, which was set up by the EU. The essence of the EPA is to replace the longstanding preferential trade that allowed the ACP countries to export their goods to the EU market without reciprocating. Since, preferential trade was not compatible with the World Trade Organisation rules. This study examines the negotiation process between the EU and the ECOWAS, with an aim of examining whether the proposed EPAs would stimulate regional integration in West Africa or it would undermine it. This study is an attempt to show how the EU has intended to foster this agreement in the region through its various offensive strategies, and it explores responses by West African states.

The ECOWAS region is negotiating the EPAs with an intention of achieving a development focused trade agreement that is going to take into account developmental challenges of the region. In addition, it has become clear that Nigeria is not prepared to sign the interim EPAs with the EU; instead, it is working hard to ensure that the EPAs have a development dimension attached to it. Subsequently, this would mean that regional collective interests are promoted under the EPAs in order to ensure that development achieved in West Africa is not reversed.



## **Abbreviation**

ACP .....	African, Caribbean Pacific
CAP.....	Common Agricultural Policy
CET.....	Common External Tariffs
CPA.....	Cotonou Partnership Agreement
CEMAC.....	Economic Community of Central African States
EBA.....	Everything But Arms
EC.....	European Commission
ECDPM.....	European Centre for Development Policy Management
ECOWAP.....	Economic Community of West Africa's Agricultural Program
ECOWAS.....	Economic Community of West African States
EDF.....	European Development Fund
EEC.....	European Economic Community
EPA.....	Economic Partnership Agreements
EU.....	European Union
GATT.....	General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs
GSP.....	Generalized System Preferences
IMF.....	International Monetary Fund
LDC.....	Least Developed Countries
MFN.....	Most Favoured Nation
MMC.....	Ministerial Monitoring Committee
MTR.....	Mid-Term-Review

NANT..... National Association of Nigerian Traders  
NIEO..... New International Economic Order  
NIP..... National Indicative Plan  
ODA..... Overseas Development Agency  
REPA..... Regional Economic Partnership Agreements  
SPS..... Sanitary & Phyto-sanitary Standards  
STABEX..... Stabilization of Export  
SYSMIN..... System of Mineral Export Stabilization  
UEMOA..... Union Economique et Monetaire Ouest Africaine  
UNCTAD..... United Nation Conference on Trade and Development  
WAEMU ..... West African Economic and Monetary Union  
WTO..... World Trade Organization