

A Trade SIA relating to the negotiation of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Community and its Member States and Libya

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European Commission, Directorate-General for Trade

Second Civil Society Meeting

Meeting Minutes

16 July 2009

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Meeting Minutes

Date & Place: 16 July 2009, Centre Albert Borschette, Room 2A (14:00-15:30pm)

Subject: Second Civil Society meeting for **A Trade SIA relating to the negotiation of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Community and its Member States and Libya**

Attendees: **European Commission**

Olivier De-Laroussilhe, Chief of Unit C2, DG Trade (OL)

Olivier Sautiere, Unit C2, DG Trade (OS)

Ramona Samson, Civil Society Dialogue Coordinator, DG Trade (RS)

Implementing Consortium

Oliver Miles, MEC, Team Leader (OM)

Clive George, University of Manchester, School of Environment and Development, Senior Sustainable Policy Expert (CG)

Joe Francois, CEPR, Head of Economic Modelling team (JF)

Steven Chaytor- DEVELOPMENT Solutions, Senior Project Manager (SC)

Dan Prud'homme - DEVELOPMENT Solutions, Division Manager, Policy Consulting (DP)

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Following introductions by OL who provided an update on FTA negotiations with Libya and RS who provided an overview for the structure of the meeting, the meeting began with presentations by SC, FJ, and CG on the Draft Final Report, which collectively highlighted the key economic, social and environmental issues for a EU-Libyan FTA and the overall SIA study timeline and methodology. A copy of the presentations is attached to the minutes.

- SC noted that Friday, 31 July 2009 was the deadline for comments from civil society on the Draft Final Report, as the project steering committee meeting for the study had agreed that the submission date for the Final Report was 21 August 2009

Following the review of the Draft Final Report, the floor was opened to attendees for questions regarding the conduct of the trade SIA and to provide comments and feedback on the study to date.

Q1: Oana-Maria Surdu, COCERAL

- Asked for an update on the FTA negotiations
 - Asked for an explanation of the parallel relationship between Libya's accession to the WTO and the FTA
- Asked if there was anything decided on state monopolies in Libya, specifically for allowing flower imports
- Asked if there were any specific products to be excluded from the FTA

R1: OL responded that:

- The FTA would be conditional on Libya making advances in their WTO agreement, although this would not necessarily be stipulated in the agreement
- There will be a paragraph in the FTA banning state monopolies, except for a standard exception for entities that are in public interest
- No articles/products were to be excluded from the agreement, with the exception of a limited article relating to air transport. The FTA was comprehensive in coverage of goods

Q2: Ms. Marianne Nichols, Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU Countries

- Asked if there was a strategic policy for local food production in Libya

R2 (a): OM responded that farming is largely a subsistence sector in Libya, including traditional methods for distribution and retail. It is believed there is not a strategic policy for food production

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R2 (b): SC responded that water sustainability issues regarding wheat and watermelon were raised by civil society in Libya in reference to the need for better crop selection due to water scarcity

Q3: Svenja Petersen, European Services Forum

- Noted she heard that the FTA was only on goods, but also heard in the SIA presentations that services like construction services seemed to be an important area to be potentially liberalised in Libya. She asked to make sure such areas were included in the FTA.

R3 (a): OL responded that goods and services, as well as regulatory approximation, are in fact main points of interest in the FTA. OL further noted that the goods and services were negotiated separately and then put into a uniform FTA and that the range of services under negotiation was not limited in scope

R3 (b): JF noted that services were particularly important, as seen in the SIA study's economic modelling

Minutes compiled by Dan Prud'homme

