

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

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**European Commission,
Directorate-General for Trade**

First Civil Society Meeting

Meeting Minutes

29 January 2009

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- Date & Place:** 29 January 2009 Centre Albert Borschette (16:00-17:30)
- Subject:** First 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**
Benoit Lefort, DG Trade (BL)
Ramona Samson, DG Trade (RS)
- Implementing Consortium**
Dr Willem Van der Geest - DEVELOPMENT Solutions, Brussels-based Trade Consultant (WvdG)
Paul Pierrot - DEVELOPMENT Solutions, Project Officer (PHP)
Clive George - University of Manchester, School of Environment and Development, Senior Sustainable Policy Expert (CG)

Meeting Minutes:

Following introductions, the meeting began with a presentation by Dr Willem van der Geest on the Inception Report highlighting the key economic, social and environmental issues for Libya and the overall project timeline and methodology.

Following the review of the Inception Report, the floor was opened to attendees for questions regarding the conduct of the Trade SIA and to provide comments and feedback on the proposed approach.

Q.1 Danish Permanent Representative

- Expressed that he encountered technical difficulties accessing the Draft Inception Report on the DG Trade Civil Society website.
 - Ms. Samson responded that as of the morning of 29 January 2009, the full Draft Inception Report was available on both the DG Trade website as well as the project website maintained by the consortium and that future reports would be made available to the public well in advance of civil society meetings to facilitate informed discussion.

Q.2 Juan Carlos Barros, Cantabria Trade Federation

- Mr Barros suggested that greater participation by international civil society organisations in the negotiation should be explored. He also highlighted Libya's lack of retail organisations and the impact this may have on trade between Libya and the EU as a point to be explored in the SIA. He further indicated that the issue of corporate social responsibility should be a key issue examined in the study and suggested that it would be beneficial to the trade relationship between Libya and the EU to organise meetings on the subject between local Libyan and European traders and businesses.
 - WvdG responded that these are important issues that should be included in the analysis and suggested continued correspondence between the consortium and Mr. Barros' organisation to share data and contacts in the EuroMed region. He further noted that on the issue of corporate social responsibility, efforts by DG Enterprise to raise awareness on this issue are ongoing.

Q.3 Mr Omar Cutajar, The Confederation of European Business (BUSINESSEUROPE)

- Mr Cutajar raised two questions regarding the scope and methodology of the study. He inquired as to whether the benchmarks used for measuring benefits of a market-based, liberal approach to trade, particularly in the financial services sector, would be derived from economic examples in Europe or in developing countries. Mr Cutajar also asked if the potential for trade diversion and implications for other bilateral and regional trade agreements would be taken into account, particularly for other EU-Mediterranean agreements and inter-Arab trade agreements.

- WvdG suggested countries such as Kuwait, Iran, Algeria and other economies with similar regional characteristics would more likely be used as benchmarks for measuring the benefits of further liberalisation. With regard to implications for other FTAs, particularly a potential EuroMed FTA, WvdG indicated that inclusion of these considerations in the study would add a great deal of insight and would be given attention in the revised Inception Report.

Q.4 Ms Claudia Orozco, DLA Piper UK, LLP

- Ms Orozco requested a brief review of the project timeline and expected dates for project reports and stakeholder consultations.
 - WvdG provided a recap of the timeline indicated in the Inception Report and encouraged interested parties to remain in contact with the consortium via email and the project website.

Q.5 Murat Ertekin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Turkey

- Mr Ertekin indicated that he understood the model would take into account impacts on Libya, the EU and the Rest of the World (R.o.W.) in the three scenarios. He inquired as to whether Turkey would be aggregated with the EU or the R.o.W.
 - WvdG indicated that Turkey would be captured in the R.o.W. portion of the model

At the close of the session, meeting participants were reminded that **5 February 2009** would be the last day to submit written comments on the Inception Report for consideration in the final version.

Minutes compiled by Paul Pierrot

