

Economic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Mauritius and the European Union

TRADE FOR DEVELOPMENT



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS





FOREWORD

MARJAANA SALL

*Ambassador of the European Union
to the Republic of Mauritius*

Many know Mauritius for its beauty, climate and good atmosphere.

However, Mauritius is so much more than just beaches, sun, lush nature and relaxation. For me, what best defines Mauritius is the entrepreneurship of its citizens. It is impressive how Mauritians have fought for a better life and opportunities and how much the island has developed since its independence.

The European Union is the first trading partner of Mauritius and the biggest export market. Mauritius has been able to grow and develop to a great extent thanks to exports to Europe made possible by the Economic Partnership Agreement. If Mauritius did not have quota-free and tariff-free access to European markets, it could not have become so competitive and so strong in external trade.

As the Ambassador of the European Union here, I am happy and proud to see how the Economic Partnership Agreement's free trade with Europe has contributed to the improvement of the lives of so many Mauritians by providing growth and jobs.



The Ambassador with Mauritian private business and EU Member States representatives

Opposite: the Ambassador at the Europe Week celebration, 27 May 2017



Four countries of eastern and southern Africa signed an **Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU)** in 2009. They are Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, Zimbabwe. Recently, on 28 July 2017, Comoros also signed the EPA.

WHAT IS AN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT?

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is a **trade and development agreement**;

It offers Mauritius:

- complete and immediate quota-free and duty-free access to European Union market;
- a long-term transition period to open — only partially — its market to EU imports.

The Republic of Mauritius has decided to liberalise 96% of its trade with the EU by 2022.

The sensitive sectors excluded by Mauritius from liberalisation are, for instance:

- ▶ live animals and meat
- ▶ beverages and cereals
- ▶ paper, chemicals and plastics
- ▶ iron and steel.



‘The EPA enables Mauritius to develop quite advanced sectors requiring extensive transformation as well as an important work force: this is the principle of these agreements.’

ERIC MAMET
Managing Director, Creasim Ltée

WHY AN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT?

EPAs help create the right conditions for trade and investment.

Together with development aid, they can deliver a number of benefits for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

More markets, more sales

- ▶ by fully opening the EU market to imports from ACP countries;
- ▶ by strengthening and boosting trade between the ACP countries themselves.

Increase and improvement in:

- ▶ productive capacity
- ▶ training opportunities
- ▶ knowledge transfer.

More transparency and political and economic stability.

Help promote regional solutions, which are good for trade and development, by tagging on to ACP regional integration initiatives.

More flexible rules of origin, making it easier for ACP countries to export products with inputs from other countries that may be:

- ▶ less expensive
- ▶ of better quality
- ▶ more innovative.

Photo opposite:
Employees of
Créasim Ltée,
one of the
companies
in Mauritius
benefitting from
free access to
the European
Union single
market

© Créasim Ltée



'Without the EPA, the company would have to be restructured and this would affect a good part of the working force (100 % local).'

TONY WALLER
Director, Wally Plush Toys Ltd

'We are really satisfied with the EPA rule of origin on textiles.'

SYLVETTE KRÜCK
*Managing Director,
Wally Plush Toys Ltd*

Employee at Wally Plush Toys Ltd
© Wally Plush Toys Ltd



Princess Tuna factory in Port Louis, Mauritius
© Princess Tuna

‘[The EPA] has provided economic comfort and stability, which supported our merger with Thon des Mascareignes in 2015. This resulted in an additional production site for Princes Tuna Mauritius and some 2 000 new employees.

This new site has also increased our marketing opportunities in several key European countries.’

AUTHORISED SPOKESPERSON
Princes Tuna, Mauritius



'From now on, this trust-based partnership is beneficial for Mauritius as it is for the European Union, which today are strongly linked.'

VÉRONIQUE GARRIOCH
*Relationships Manager, Ireland
Blyth Limited, Seafood & Marine*

HOW DOES THE EU SUPPORT MAURITIUS TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT?

- ▶ In order to reform and modernise the economy of Mauritius, almost EUR 11 million (approximatedly MUR 412 million) has already been dedicated under the EPA development support programme.
- ▶ To combat illegal trade, the EU helps Mauritius through the provision of specialised equipment for its port.
- ▶ An electronic business licencing platform will allow the private sector to receive licences and permits more quickly, in a single location and at lower costs.
 - Red tape and corruption opportunities will decrease.
 - Consequently, Mauritius will strengthen its competitiveness.
- ▶ The revision of the intellectual property framework in Mauritius will encourage:
 - more investment
 - innovation
 - growth
 - economic development.

Photo opposite:
Factory of IBL
Seafood &
Marine, one of
the companies
in Mauritius
benefitting from
free access to
the European
Union single
market

© IBL Seafood &
Marine





‘The government’s ambition is to make Mauritius a **high-income, innovative nation** with a seamless and transparent regulatory environment.

The European Union is a key partner for realising this important agenda. Thanks to EU assistance, Mauritius will be able to reduce regulatory barriers, undertake a major regulatory reform in improving the investment climate and implement a national e-licensing platform as a single point of entry for the application and processing of business permits and licences’.

KEN POONOOSAMY

Managing Director, Board of Investment

© Ken Poonoosamy, Managing Director, BoI
Background: View of Port Louis, capital of Mauritius
© iStock.com / hessbeck



© European Union, 2017

Cover images: Flag ©iStock.com/ Björn Kindler; ©European Union;
©Wally Plush Toys; and ©IBL

All others photos are © European Union unless otherwise stated.

Reuse is authorised provided the source is acknowledged. The reuse policy of European Commission documents is regulated by Decision 2011/833/EU (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39). For any use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the EU copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders.

Print	ISBN 978-92-9238-462-3	doi:10.2871/85325	MU-02-17-969-EN-C
PDF	ISBN 978-92-9238-463-0	doi:10.2871/706533	MU-02-17-969-EN-N

Printed by the Publications Office in Luxembourg

PRACTICAL HELP TO EXPORT TO THE EU

TRADE Helpdesk

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/tradehelp/>





Need more information?

Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius and to the Republic of Seychelles

8th Floor, St. James Court, St Denis Street,
PO Box 1148, Port Louis,
Mauritius

Tel: +230 2071515

Fax: +230 2116624

Delegation-Mauritius@eeas.europa.eu

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/mauritius_en

Facebook : [EUinMauritius](#)
[EUinSeychelles](#)

Twitter: [@EUAmbMauritius](#)

