



West Africa-EU EPA ECONOMIC PAUPERIZATION AGREEMENT

The so-called "Economic Partnership Agreements" (EPAs) that the European Union forces its former African colonies to ratify are the worst type of free-trade agreements given the inequality of the "partners": the per capita GDP of Sub-Saharan Africa was 21 times lower than that of the European Union in 2013

The West Africa-EU EPA is the most urgent to fight as the European Parliament is due to ratify it on July 7, 2015

West Africa is already facing huge challenges:

- **Demographic**: its population would jump from 340 million in 2014 to 807 million in 2050 when that of the EU would stagnate at 520 million
- **Food**: the food deficit has jumped by 30% per year from 2001 to 2011
- **Climate**: global warming will intensify droughts and limit yields increases

The EPA will add the following constraints:

- **Losses of 21 billion euros in net customs duties** from 2020 to 2035 on 82% of imports from the EU which will no longer be taxed
- **Interdiction to increase export taxes** which yield larger revenues in Ivory Coast than import duties
- **Collapse of public expenditures** on education, health and the environment

- **Hike in food deficit** as local cereals and dairy products will no longer be protected from the subsidized imports from Europe
- **Wiping out of the scarce local industries** by the competition of imports from Europe
- **Explosion of unemployment and of boat people** to Europe
- **Rise of trafficking** (drug, arms, people)
- **Upsurge of extreme violences** (type Boko Haram)

"If the Commission persists, Europe will commit a political, tactical, economic and geostrategic mistake... Can we really assume the responsibility of leading Africa, which in a few years will be home to the greatest number of persons living on less than one dollar a day, to more chaos, on the grounds that WTO rules are being complied with?" (Report of Jean-Claude Lefort voted unanimously by the International Commission of the French National Assembly, July 5, 2006)

"Are rules which are destroying economies and despairing men unfailing?... Does Europe feel invulnerable to the point of freeing herself of alliances founded on historical, cultural and linguistic links, and of affinities brought by them?... There is no example of market opening having led to development" (Report of Christiane Taubira to the President of the French Republic, June 16, 2008)

The former governor of Nigeria's Central Bank, Professor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, said on 19 March 2012 that the West Africa's EPA would be a **"second slavery"**

The EPA is even an heresy for the European selfish capitalist interests: without allowing West Africa to ensure her food sovereignty and to protect her infant industries, the European Union deprives herself to be able to export in the medium and long run high value added industrial products and services.

NO to the West Africa-EU EPA!