



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY  
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**A MOTION OF THE ASSEMBLY URGING THE EAC COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS, TO REVIEW THE PROCESS OF ECONOMIC  
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS (EPAS).**

**By: Hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza and adopted By the Assembly on  
Thursday, February 26, 2009**

**WHEREAS** on November 23, 2007 the Partner States of East African Community entered into and initialled a Framework Economic Partnership Agreement (hereinafter called "the Framework Agreement") with the European Commission under which the parties agreed to open up their markets to agricultural and manufactured goods from each other's territory and further agreed to negotiate the conclusion of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (hereinafter called "the Comprehensive Agreement") by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

**NOTING THAT** the European Commission and the Partner States of East African Community (hereinafter called "the Partner States") are currently negotiating the comprehensive Agreement.

**CONCERNED THAT** the Framework Agreement and the comprehensive Agreement now under negotiation between the parties delve into the unresolved so called "*Singapore Issues*" under the WTO Doha Round of Negotiations, which



issues include: Competition rules, Investment and private sector development rules, Intellectual property rights, transparency in public Procurement and Trade facilitation.

**FURTHER CONCERNED** that any agreement under an Economic Partnership Agreement on the unresolved Singapore Issues may gravely impact on the outcome of the Doha Round Negotiations on these issues.

**RECOGNISING THAT** no impact assessment study has been carried out on the effect and impact of any Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Commission and the Partner States on the:-

- (a) Socio-economic development in the Partner States in the East African Community; and
- (b) Integration process of the East African Community.

**AWARE THAT** at the time of commencing the negotiations on the initialled Framework Agreement and the current negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement, the prevailing world economic recession and global financial crisis had not been contemplated and therefore taken into account in the negotiations.

**CONSIDERING THAT** the current world economic recession and financial crisis is likely to impact on and affect the way international trade is carried on in the changed circumstances.

**CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT** neither the Framework Agreement nor any report on the current status of negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement has been tabled before any Parliament in any Partner State or this Assembly for the people's representatives to consider.



**FURTHER CONSIDERING THAT** the Partner States are at an advanced stage of negotiations to conclude a protocol to usher in the Common Market for the East African Community as the next and deeper stage of regional integration.

**CONVINCED THAT** the negotiations on the comprehensive Agreement are being carried on in breach and in spite of the provisions of the East African Community Joint Trade Negotiations Act, 2008 and are likely to adversely impact on and affect the nature and significance of the Common Market for East African Community and regional integration.

**FURTHER CONVINCED THAT** the conclusion of a Comprehensive Agreement between the European Union and the Partner States may have grave consequences on the development agenda of the East African Community and the Partner States unless the development issues under the Doha Round regarding challenges relating to supply side and infrastructure constraints are adequately addressed.

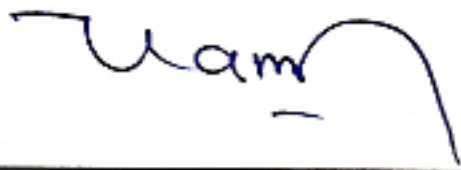
**NOW THEREFORE** this Assembly do resolve that:-

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Article 14 (3) (c) of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community and Section 19 of the East African Trade Negotiations Act, the Council of Ministers do operationalise and give effect to the said East African Trade Negotiations Act.
2. In accordance with the provisions of Article 14 (3) (c) of the Treaty, the Council of Ministers do urge the Partner States to constitute and establish the negotiating structures and mechanisms and that all future negotiations

be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the East African Joint Trade Negotiations Act.

3. The Council of Ministers do urge the Partner States to review further negotiations for a Comprehensive Agreement.

**CERTIFIED BY:**



**Kenneth Madete**  
**Ag. CLERK**

**DATE:** 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2009