

## Future EU Funding to be Based on Performance of Ongoing Programmes



Ambassador Alessandro Mariani (L) and Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe

“The future of EU’s allocation of programs’ financing will be determined by the rate of implementation of the current eleventh European Development Fund project,” the outgoing Head of European Delegation to Zambia and COMESA Ambassador Allesandro Mariani, has said.

In his parting shot when he paid a farewell visit to COMESA Secretariat on Wednesday last week, Amb. Mariani however noted that the joint EU-COMESA team had done an excellent job in project preparation and the focus now should be on effective implementation.

“What remains now is implementation! implementation! implementation,” Ambassador Mariani stressed.

To improve on programme performance, especially on the ongoing projects on trade facilitation and the Small-Scale Cross Border Trade, he said there will be no need to establish Project Management Units (PMU).

“A number of countries already have EDF National Offices with the requisite skills to carry out project coordination thus avoiding duplication,” he noted citing Zambia as an example.

He urged COMESA to re-launch the development partners forum and have more frequent meetings to harmonize implementation of programmes and also to keep the European Union countries engaged.

Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe thanked Amb. Mariani for deepening the COMESA - EU partnership, which made it possible to make great strides in the implementation of EU supported regional integration programmes.

She said COMESA will conduct an assessment to identify which countries have the capacity to manage the EU supported regional integration project without having to create separate PMUs.

The EU is the largest single financier for implementation of regional programmes in

COMESA.

In the past one year, the EU has signed several financing agreements including a 10 million Euro programme for the Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets under the 11th European Development Fund. This is in addition to another 85 million Euros to implement activities under Trade Facilitation and the Small-Scale Cross Border Trade.

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# Ethiopia, Uganda Joins Egmont Group

Countries' now able to exchange intelligence on financial crimes



File Photo: Financial intelligence analysts from member states in a past meeting in Lusaka.

Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) of two COMESA Member States, Ethiopia and Uganda were among those recently admitted to the Egmont Group, a global financial network that formulates coordinated policies and responses to financial crimes such as money laundering and terrorist financing.

Their admission alongside the Dominican Republic, Palestine, Papua New Guinea and Turkmenistan was a key highlight of the 26th Plenary of the Egmont Group of FIUs held at the Hague, Netherlands, 1st – 5th July. This brings the membership of the Egmont Group to 164 countries.

The processes leading to the attainment of the standards required for a Financial Intelligence Unit to gain membership to the Egmont Group are long and can take many years. It therefore requires, among other things that the country has enacted sound laws and legislation as guided by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

FAFT is the intergovernmental body that sets standards, develops and promotes policies to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. It has so far developed a set of 40 rules to provide measures against money laundering given that the crime is transnational and the success in combatting it requires international cooperation

Among these rules is a requirement for a country to establish a national center for receipt and analysis of suspicious transaction reports and

other information relevant to money laundering and terrorism financing.

Following this development, the Head of Peace and Security programme in COMESA Ms. Elizabeth Mutunga said Ethiopia Financial Intelligence Center (FIC) and Uganda Financial Intelligence Authority will now benefit from among other things, the ability to exchange financial intelligence with other FIUs through a secured communication platform.

“Their personnel will also benefit from regular training by experts in the field as well as opportunities for personnel exchanges to enhance the effectiveness of the FIUs,” Ms. Mutunga said.

She added: “Given the trans-national nature of money laundering, information exchange between

jurisdictions is very important but because of the sensitive nature of the information, FIUs are only willing to exchange information with peers that are established within the international standards.”

Considering the benefits that member states derive from membership to Egmont, as well as an assurance of sustainability of COMESA MASE capacity building efforts, COMESA has prioritized support to FIUs to join group.

Mauritius FIU was the first COMESA Member State FIU to join the Egmont Group in 2003. Others include the FIU of Seychelles, which joined in 2013, Egypt Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Combatting Unit (2004), Malawi Financial Intelligence Unit (2009), Sudan Financial Information Unit (2017) and Zambia Financial Reporting Center (2018).

Mauritius, Seychelles and Zambia are beneficiary countries to COMESA Maritime Security (MASE) programme. They attained membership to the Egmont Group before commencement of COMESA MASE support.

COMESA facilitated Ethiopia FIC to improve its operations and its ICT systems as wells as sponsoring study tours to other countries with well-developed systems. COMESA MASE is currently working with the Madagascar FIU (SAMIFIN) towards its successful application for Egmont Group membership.



## Transition

Former Coordinator of the COMESA USAID Programme Mr Walter Talma was laid to rest in his home country, Seychelles, on Friday, 19 July 2019. Walter passed away a week earlier, on 12 July 2019 shortly after landing at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka from an official mission. He joined COMESA Secretariat on 12th August 2009 as the Coordinator of USAID-COMESA Programmes. During his 10 years of service, he was also the Country Officer for Seychelles, whose role was to facilitate communication between the COMESA Secretariat and the Government of Seychelles.



# New Measures to Harness Regional Livestock Trade



Regional trade in live animals, meat and meat products are set to rise following a raft of new measures being put in place by COMESA and livestock exporting and importing countries.

These measures include: regional live animal grading standard, linking enterprises in exporting and importing countries and sharing experiences on livestock value addition and export capacities. The first meeting to discuss the modalities of implementing these measures was conducted in Ethiopia last week, 23-25 July 2019 and brought together key players in the livestock trade including public, academic and private sectors from livestock producing countries such as Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia and importing countries; the D R Congo, Egypt and Seychelles.

Ethiopia's State Minister in charge of inputs and products marketing, HE Mrs Ayinalem Nigusie, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Secretary General of COMESA Chileshe Kapwepwe addressed the delegates.

In a statement presented by Chief of Strategic Planning at COMESA Secretariat, Mr Simal Amor, the SG said the development of a harmonized grading and classification system for livestock in the COMESA region will guide and catalyze the marketing of beef animals and sheep and goats across the region.

"A uniform regional grading system will create opportunities for importers to make orders based on the common specification of grades and, for exporters to aggregate and supply the orders

based on similar specifications," she said: "This will enhance confidence among traders, provide value for money for both producers and buyers, and other actors, stimulate improved animal husbandry and overall growth of the sector."

She noted that the current dynamics in the world economy, increasing investments in the livestock sector, high and rising demand, and consumer preferences for animal source foods provide opportunities for increased trade in livestock and livestock products among others.

Stakeholders in livestock trade have often cited the lack of market information and linkages among enterprises in importing and exporting

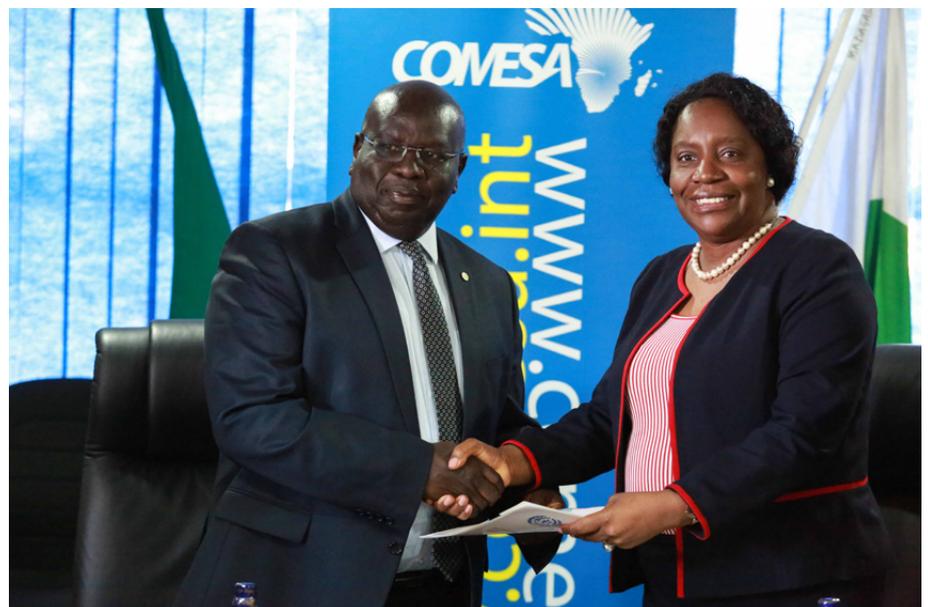
countries as a major hindrance to trade. Thus, the project interventions present an opportunity to establish a regional market information system and catalogue of enterprises that can inform trade decision making even at a distance.

Among the issues that also featured in the workshop deliberations was livestock production and the challenges impacting trade. Speakers observed that the region has many similarities in almost all areas of animal production and trade, hence member states need to develop pragmatic terms of trade in line with the specificities of the regional context rather than blindly embracing unrealistic measures that may not add value to their collective wellbeing.

Participants later visited Allana foods; an ultra-modern abattoir and meat processing complex located in Ethiopia's livestock rich Adami Tulu district in Oromia State.

SG encouraged member states to review, adopt and institutionalize the proposed harmonized grading and classification system and other measures to open up trade among themselves, and with the rest of the world.

Participants who also included representatives from the International Livestock Research Institute Addis Ababa and Nairobi campuses visited Allana Meat Industries complex in Ethiopia to have firsthand experience on how the value addition is taking place.



The new International Labour Organization Director to Zambia & Representative to COMESA Mr. George Okutho presenting his letter of accreditation to COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe, Tuesday, July 30, 2019.



President Kenyatta receives COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe and Assistant Secretary General Kipyego Chelugot at State House, Kenya.

## COMESA Banks on President Kenyatta's Support for Success of Regional Trade Agreements

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has expressed confidence in President Uhuru Kenyatta's leadership and facilitation in the successful roll-out of the newly inaugurated African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe said the regional economic bloc counts on President Kenyatta's support to guide and move forward the implementation of AfCFTA.

"As COMESA, we are confident that your commitment and support will play a big role in the realization of AfCFTA as we work to ensure COMESA's voice is heard and its interests safeguarded at the continental level," Kapwepwe told President Kenyatta.

Ms Kapwepwe, was is the country for the COMESA Source 21 International Trade Fair and High-Level Business Summit. She was speaking on Thursday July 18 when she paid a courtesy call on the President at State House, Nairobi.

She said COMESA will continue to play a key role in addressing unemployment and trade imbalance in the region.

Implementation of AfCFTA was launched early this month at the 12th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Africa Union (AU) in Niamey, Niger. President Kenyatta assured of Kenya's support to COMESA as it moves to consolidate its position as an economic powerhouse on the continent.

He reiterated his call for COMESA member states to come together and take advantage of their collective strengths as an economic bloc. "Our success as COMESA member states will largely depend on us stopping to look at each other as competitors and instead unite for economic integration that will make us all winners," President Kenyatta said.

"We must focus on removing the obstacles that are hindering our people from working and doing business together," he added (PSCU)

## COMESA Member States Discuss Regional Climate Resilience Framework

Experts in disaster management, mitigation and climate change in eastern and southern Africa want COMESA to finalize expeditiously the regional climate resilience framework and hold a validation meeting with all Member States. In a meeting last week in Chisamba, Zambia, the experts, comprising of Senior government officials representing 13 COMESA countries, pledged to work together to strengthen their policy and coordination mechanisms. This is in line with the COMESA regional climate resilience framework.

They also agreed to use the framework as a guide to strengthen their national policies in handling issues brought about by climate change. According to a status report presented at the meeting, most COMESA countries are vulnerable and face similar threats of climate change and droughts, flooding, industrial shocks, extreme rainfall and disease outbreaks, wars and civil unrest among others.

In view of this, COMESA Secretariat through the Climate Change Unit organized the two-day meeting with the officials from ministries responsible for planning, agriculture, environment, health, disaster management and mitigation to discuss the current status in the region and map the way forward.

Some of the topics covered in the meeting included: introduction to resilience and risk, the benefits/dividends of resilience, insuring against risks, case studies from the African continent, the essentials of an effective early warning system, disaster preparedness, preventive and corrective response measures, policy requirements to promote resilience and financing resilience at the national level.

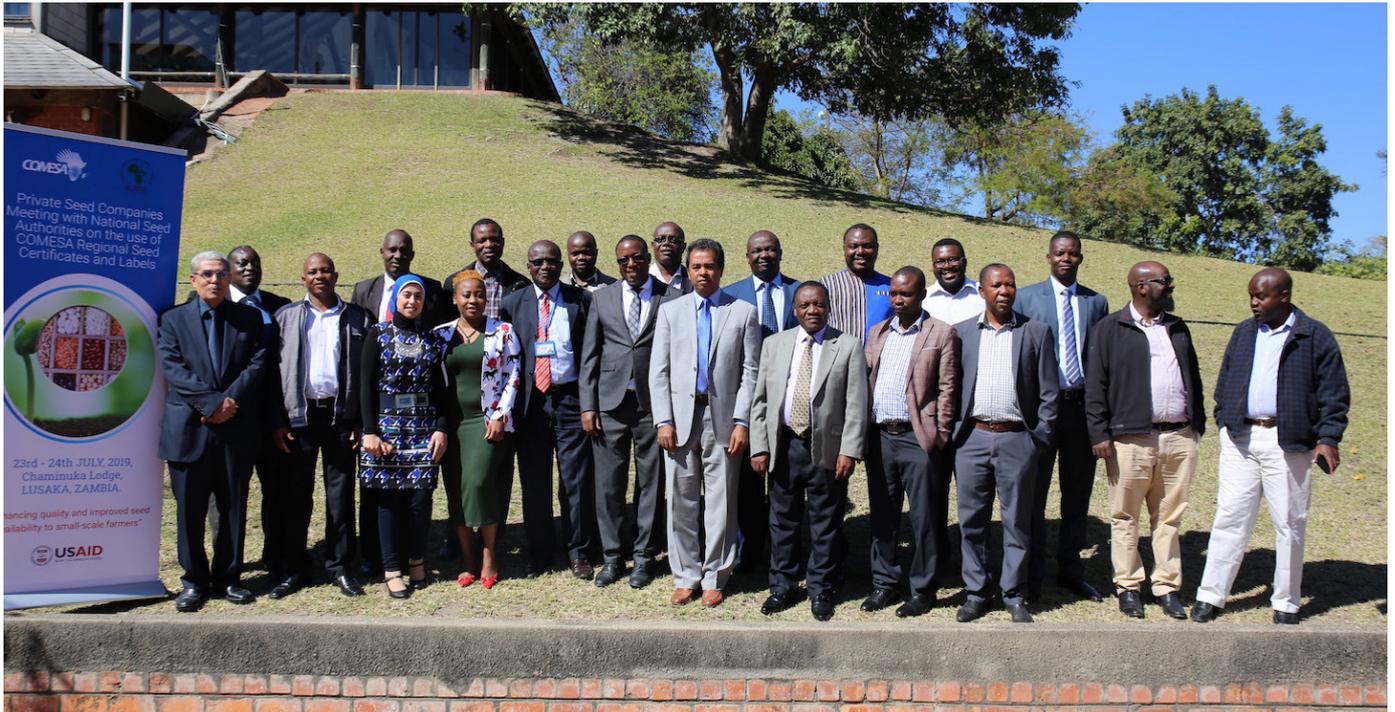
Among the key recommendations was the need for COMESA to organise regional platforms for experience-sharing in preparedness for disasters (including Early Warning Systems) and success →

### COMESA DIARY

Dates	Event	Venue
30-31 July 2019	Meeting on Nationally Determined Contributions Target Indicator Tracking - Climate Change	Harare
1-2 August 2019	Green Climate Finance Training co- organized with the African Union and UNDP	Harare



# Stakeholders Trained on Using new COMESA Seed Certificates and Labels



Participants at the COMESA Regional Seed Certifications and Labels meeting in Chaminuka, Lusaka.

Following the launch of the COMESA Regional Seed Certifications and Labels early this year, COMESA will conduct training on the electronic issuance and ordering of these documents in the next six months. National Seed Authorities (NSA) will offer the certificates at the national level while seed companies will obtain them from COMESA.

These were part of the outcomes of a two-

## COMESA MS discuss climate resilience ...

→ stories in mitigation disasters.

“COMESA should convene a pre-COP 25 meeting to prepare the region for effective participation in climate change negotiations especially in areas of climate change adaptation, loss and damage due to climate change,” the delegated stated in their final report.

In addition, they requested for COMESA support Member States to develop market-led resilience initiatives that are linked to Climate Smart Agriculture initiatives and weather index insurance.

Representatives from the African Union Commission (AUC), the East African Community (EAC), the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and ARC attended the meeting.

day sensitization meeting on the use of the certifications and labels. The meeting which took place last week, July 23 – 25 in Lusaka, Zambia was attended by seed companies and NSAs from seven Member States: Burundi, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The launch of the COMESA Seed Labels and Certificates is intended to boost regional seed trade in a region where only 20% of over 80 million small-holder farmers have access to quality and improved seed.

According to the Director of Agriculture and Industry in COMESA Mr. Thierry Kalonji, lack of access to quality seeds is partly to blame for food insecurity and poor incomes for small-holder farmer house-holds across the COMESA region. In a statement presented by COMESA Senior Private Sector Development officer, Mr Innocent Makwiramiti, Mr. Kalonji said:

“The region has potential of total seed market at two million metric tonnes of quality and improved seed. However, its currently producing less than 500,000 metric tonnes of quality and improved seed. This has affected about 130 million people out of total 530 million COMESA population remaining food insecure, experience chronic poverty and hunger.”

He said the main challenge in the regional as the small national markets, with each country having its own policies and regulations which is not only

costly to the private sector but contributes to the delays before good quality seed reaches the small-scale farmer.

“Integrating these individual markets into one COMESA-wide market is a fundamental requirement for improved small-holder productivity as well as growth of the region’s private sector operating in the seed industry,” he said.

The development of seed labels and certificates is part of the implementation of the COMESA Seed Harmonisation Implementation Plan (COMSHIP) which is aimed at facilitating regional seed trade. COMESA Agriculture Ministers endorsed the COMESA Seed Trade Harmonisation Regulations In 2015 leading to the launch of the COMSHIP programme to expedite implementation both at national and regional level.

So far, the COMESA Seed programme has facilitated three stakeholders’ meetings on seed certifications and labeling. The first and second meeting were held in February 2018 and April 2019 whose focus was to agree on modalities for production, printing and distribution of COMESA Regional Seed Certificates and labels.

The procurement of the Seed labels and Certificates has been fully sponsored by USAID through COMESA.

## Empowering Member States in Tracking Paris Agreement Indicators



Participants at the meeting on Tracking the Paris Agreement Indicators, Harare.

COMESA Secretariat will hold a two-day training workshop for Member States on tracking and implementation of the Transparency Clause of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The workshop will take place in Harare, Zimbabwe, on July 30 – 31, 2019.

At least 17 Member States namely: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, D.R Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe will participate.

The key provision of the Paris Agreement's Transparency Framework (Article 13), is a requirement for developing countries to regularly monitor, analyse, and report their national Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. This includes providing information necessary to track progress towards achieving their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); information related to climate change adaptation and mitigation; and information on financial, technology transfer and capacity building support needed and received.

The Paris Agreement under, Article 14 requires the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) to periodically take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals thus the global stocktake process.

The first global stocktaking will happen in 2023 and every five years thereafter, unless otherwise

decided by the CMA. Under the Paris Agreement, each country has to present a climate action plan every five years and this will help the world to determine whether it needs to do more and how much more.

COMESA Climate Change Coordinator, Dr Mclay Kanyangarara says all COMESA Member States are fully engaged in the on-going discussions and negotiations to find a lasting and sustainable solution to the challenge of climate change.

"Our countries have ratified the Paris Agreement of 2015 and submitted very ambitious NDCs given their circumstances," he said ahead of the meeting in Zimbabwe. "In view of the foregoing, COMESA is supporting its Member States to enhance their capacity in NDC implementation." He added that with adequate capacity, it is envisaged that Member States will effectively monitor, track and report the progress achieved in implementing their NDCs. This is essential in meeting the requirements of article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

The meeting will also be attended by the Nationally Determined Contributions experts, representatives of the African Union Commission, African Regional Economic Communities, continental bodies such as the AfDB, relevant United Nations Agencies such as UNDP and UNEP, Development partners including the World Bank and the European Union Delegation in Harare; and other actors that support African efforts in tackling climate change.

## Tripartite Technical Teams in Full Steam as Ratifications Rise

As the COMESA, EAC, SADC region awaits the attainment of the required threshold on 14 member/partners states to ratify the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement, technical teams charged with the responsibility of preparing the ground for its implementation are in full throttle. Last week in Nairobi Kenya, the Tripartite Task Force (TTF) concluded a series of meetings for Technical Working Groups to facilitate development of working procedures, operational manuals and technical guidelines for the implementation of the TFTA Agreement. These were: the 35 Meeting of the TTF on Development of Tripartite Capacity Building Strategy; the Meeting of Tripartite Experts on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) / Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT); the First Meeting of Technical Working Group (TWG) on Trade in Services and the First Meeting of the TWG on Competition Policy

So far, 22 countries out of the 28 have signed the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement since its inception in June 2015. Five of the countries; Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa and recently, Rwanda have ratified the Agreement.

Among the key outputs of the meetings was the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Competition Policy, and development of its Terms of Reference to guide its work. The appointed team of experts commenced their tasks immediately and will, among other tasks, undertake a situational analysis on Competition and Consumer Protection Policies and Laws in Member/Partner States and RECs.

The Director of Trade and Customs in COMESA, Dr Francis Mangeni, who led the COMESA team, described the outputs of the meetings as ground-breaking:

"In particular on Competition Policy, we have produced in one sitting a comprehensive zero draft for consultations and text-based negotiations. This has put the process on a good trajectory," Dr Mangeni said

The working group on Tripartite Capacity Building Strategy has also commenced the development of an institutional framework to implement the Tripartite Programmes. It has also finalized the First Draft Tripartite Capacity Building Strategy. "The draft has been circulated to the Tripartite RECs for comments and is due for finalization in the margins of the upcoming Tripartite Meetings planned for 5 – 10 August in Zanzibar," the report of the meetings stated.

Experts dealing with the Tripartite TBT/SPS considered the existing tools in each Regional Economic Community (EAC/COMESA/SADC) with a view to establishing and escalating regional metrology, conformity assessment, accreditation, health and food safety infrastructure to the tripartite level. The meeting proposed additional tool to guide the Ninth Meeting of the TWG on TBT/SPS and NTBs, planned for 5-10 August 2019 in Zanzibar.

The Technical Working Group on Trade in Services was also established as well as its Terms of Reference and Roadmap to guide its work. This team will lead negotiations that will eventually create a single services market for the Tripartite RECs of COMESA, EAC and SADC.