

EPAs worries spreading fast

During the last 4 months, your campaigning has led to more and more official bodies expressing concern about EPAs, including ministers, European parliament, British MPs and African church leaders. They are a diverse mix of groups that reflects just how serious the impacts of EPAs could be.

17 May 2007

- In February, [the African Union and UN concluded that African countries are not ready for EPAs](#), which led to development organisations denouncing the pressure put on poor countries to sign the agreements.
- In March, [British MPs released a report condemning the way EU is abusing its power in the EPAs negotiations](#).
- At the same time, the [Nigerian trade minister voiced fears](#) that poor countries would have to "jump in a blindfolded manner into the EPAs", as they lack crucial information to make the decisions whether to sign EPAs.
- On 19 April, [campaigners rallied in 30 countries](#) to protest over unfair trade deals.
- More recently, [Christian church leaders in Kenya have made a formal statement](#) that EPAs in their present form would restrict Kenya's government to pursue its development strategies. [Leaders from Eastern and Southern African churches also made a strong statement](#): EPA negotiations are a threat to the well being of our people and our economic development.
- On 23 May, the [European Parliament issued a report](#) saying they were concerned about "public spending cuts in key sectors such as education or health" and calling for an independent oversight committee.
- In July the [FIDH, an international network of human rights organisations, released a position paper on EPAs](#) that states that the agreements threaten states' ability to channel foreign investment and to protect their citizens' human rights.