

Don't **lock**
Africa
into **poverty**



Make Sure Africa's Future is Bright!

Demand Fair Trade Deals between the EU and Africa

It's important to celebrate Africa and Africa Day 2010 is a great opportunity to do so. But it's also important to make sure Ireland and Europe aren't doing anything to endanger Africa's development. And trade justice campaigners are concerned that the EU's trade policy is doing just that.



Trade could support economic development and help millions of poor farmers and workers in Africa escape poverty. But instead rigged rules are locking Africa into poverty. The European Union is pressurising African countries to agree to unfair rules using trade deals called **Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)**.

What's the problem with EPAs?

These trade agreements put jobs and livelihoods across Africa at risk, and will significantly reduce the amount of tax African governments can receive. EPAs also threaten the right of poor countries to shape policy in the public interest and could fundamentally damage Africa's ability to decide its own economic future. They could put food security at risk for many African countries, with African farmers unable to compete with subsidized EU agricultural products.

Most importantly, the neoliberal economic model being pushed on Africa by these trade deals is a dangerous one that has failed in Europe and Ireland, and brought about the current global financial crisis. **At a time when we are racing to re-regulate at home to try to deal with the impacts of the economic crisis, it seems crazy to be pushing Africa to commit to permanently deregulate its economy!**

What are people in Africa saying?

These agreements are being negotiated right now. African governments are being put under huge pressure to make concessions to EU demands. But there is still time to stop these unfair trade deals, as many countries are resisting the pressure and insisting they won't sign unless the deal is good for them as well as Europe. People across Africa, including farmers, workers, women and students are taking a stand - but they need your support.

- o The former president of Tanzania, Benjamin Mkapa, warned in March 2010 that the EPAs could be *"another scramble for Africa"*
- o Dot Keet, a South African trade justice campaigner, recently cautioned that the global recession adds another reason for African governments not to sign EPAs; *"This is not a time to be tying government's hands"* she said. *"Countries of the South are going to need every possible policy flexibility and autonomy to cope with the coming crises"*.

What role does Ireland have on EPAs?

Ireland has on many occasions supported the concerns of African countries regarding these deals, and called for flexibility and time from the EU. But now the government is putting some of these deals through the Dáil. We need to call on Ireland to be a global leader in the fight against global poverty and injustice. Let's make sure the Irish government continues to raise concerns about these deals at a European level, and insists on trade agreements that allow Africa to trade its way out of poverty.

Demand that the EU trades fairly.

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