

Chapter 9

Development and Implementation of Digital Tools, Neural Networks, and Cyber Control Systems in Sliding Modes

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ABSTRACT

This chapter seeks to understand the EU-ACP trade relations under the economic partnership agreement (EPA) arrangement and its implications on economic nationalism of developing nations with specific reference to Zimbabwe. The research strongly leans on the view that EPAs have little or no economic benefit to the ACP. Even though the EU tagged the ensuing trade relationship with the ACP as partnership, in the real sense, it is more of paternalism. This is especially so as the EU dictates the terms and the pace of the negotiation, owns the incentives (in the form of aid and technical assistance), and either dispenses or withdraws it at will, depending on the “behavior” of the ACP countries. In order to benefit from EPAs, ACP countries must fund their own economies. ACP states should also address internal political challenges before committing to multiple economic fronts such as the EPAs.

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INTRODUCTION

This chapter seeks to understand the EU-ACP trade relations under the economic partnership agreement (EPA) arrangement and its implications on economic nationalism of developing nations with specific reference to Zimbabwe. The research strongly leans on the view that EPAs have little or no economic benefit to the ACP. Even though the EU tagged the ensuing trade relationship with the ACP as partnership, in the real sense, it is more of paternalism. This is especially so as the EU dictates the terms and the pace of the negotiation, owns the incentives (in the form of aid and technical assistance), and either dispenses or withdraws it at will, depending on the “behavior” of the ACP countries. In order to benefit from EPAs, ACP countries must fund their own economies. ACP states should also address internal political challenges before committing to multiple economic fronts such as the EPAs.

The European Union (EU)’s trading relations with the 77 members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries have historically been framed by a series of conventions. Some of the conventions granted unilateral preference to the ACP countries on the EU market using the Most Favored Nation (MFN) principle which states that a nation will choose who it wants to offer trade preferences (Fontagné, Laborde, and Mitaritonna, 2008). Although the ACP countries are among the most vulnerable countries in the global trading system, the conventions nevertheless violated World Trade Organization (WTO) rules as they established unfair discrimination between developing countries and therefore a change was required.

The pace of globalization is increasing, with unprecedented flows of goods, services and people between countries and companies. Levels of overseas investment and foreign ownership have risen dramatically, alongside far-reaching changes in technology, production and corporate organization. National economies and companies are becoming ever more interdependent, and emerging economies such as China and India are competing in world markets in a way that few could have imagined in the 20th century (Cooper, 2007).

For the purposes of negotiations, the 77 ACP countries have been grouped into six negotiation regions (West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific) based on existing regional integration institutions (Heron and Siles-Brügge, 2011). All these regions established Free Trade Areas (FTA) for goods between the EU and various ACP countries that are compatible with the provisions of Article XXIV of GATT. The objectives of this study are to assess the impact of EPAs in ACP economies, analyses the regional economic trade agreements for ACP countries under the EU-EPAs arrangement and to understand the benefits of EPAs to ACP countries.

ACP States have consistently noted that the European Union has not given adequate attention to the development chapters in the interim EPAs.⁴² Many ACP

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