

BIEAC PROJECT PHASE II ACTIVITIES: UPDATE

October 2010

In the months of July-September, 2010, BIEAC phase II the following seven research papers based on the seven research activities undertaken in the previous quarter were discussed and finalised:

1. Accession of Burundi and Rwanda into ERAC: Implications for private sector development.
2. State of Informal cross-border trade and implications on implementation of the EAC growth and integration.
3. Harmonization of EAC tax regimes: proposals for a SME.s friendly taxation system.
4. Rwanda: Integration Migration with Development in EAC: Policy challenges and Recommendations.
5. Tanzania: Non-Tariff Barriers in trading within EAC: status, challenges and way forward in 2010 and beyond.
6. Socio-economic Implications of the Uganda's Draft Competition Law: *Addressing Challenges at National and Regional Level*
7. A Case for Trade in the Resurgent EAC: Policy Challenges and Opportunities

Seven policy briefs were prepared based on the research findings and comments obtained in the national and regional workshops conducted in the previous and the current quarter. The research papers and policy briefs are available at <http://www.cuts-grc.org/BIEAC-Projects.htm>. The policy briefs were also published, printed and sent to project partners in all the five EAC member states. The project partners disseminated them in awareness workshops held during the quarter and started preparing trade guides and civil society position papers based on the discussions.

Atul Kaushik, Director of CUTS Geneva Resource Centre was invited to present a legal/technical study in the annual GTZ Fachtag held in Bonn on 24-26 August 2010. The Study, entitled "Reassessing the Scope and Mandate of the Enhanced Integrated Framework, is available at http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Research_Report10-Reassessing_Scope_and_Mandate_of_the{EIF.pdf.

A Synthesis paper to capture the results of the research in all the seven areas above was commissioned. The draft syntheses paper is expected to be ready by end of October and will be discussed in the Final Regional Conference of the BIEAC Project on 2 November 2010 at Arusha, Tanzania, which is the seat of the EAC Secretariat.

For further details, please contact geneva@cuts.org or nairobi@cuts.org