



Council of the
European Union

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PROPOSAL

From: Secretary-General of the European Commission,
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 16 September 2014

To: Mr Uwe CORSEPIUS, Secretary-General of the Council of the European
Union

No. Cion doc.: COM(2014) 576 final - ANNEX 8

Subject: ANNEX to the Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and
provisional application of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)
between the West African States, ECOWAS and the UEMOA, of the one
part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part

Delegations will find attached document COM(2014) 576 final - ANNEX 8.

Encl.: COM(2014) 576 final - ANNEX 8



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Proposal for a Council Decision

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JOINT DECLARATION REGARDING COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ESTABLISHED A CUSTOMS UNION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union Party underlines the obligation for countries which have established a customs union with the European Union to align their trade regime with that of the European Union and, for some of them, to conclude preferential agreements with the countries that have preferential agreements with the European Union.

In this context, the European Union calls upon the West Africa Party to enter negotiations as soon as possible with the countries which:

- a) have established a customs union with the European Union and
- b) whose products are not covered by the tariff conditions provided for by this Agreement,

with the aim of concluding a bilateral agreement establishing a free-trade area.

The West Africa Party takes note and informs the European Union Party that it will do everything to ensure that the European Union's request regarding the negotiation of free-trade agreements with the countries concerned will be appropriately examined.