



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

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Subject: **EARLY WARNING**
Full Powers for the signing 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

In order to prepare for the pre-signing by Member States of the abovementioned Agreement, which is planned to take place in Brussels on 12 December 2014, in the margins of the Foreign Affairs Council, Member States are requested to ensure that an instrument of Full Powers* is duly issued, authorising their respective plenipotentiary to sign.

The original of these Full Powers, or at least a copy thereof, should be sent to the Council's Agreements Office¹ (for the attention of Luc DeHERT) by the date of the signature, at the latest.

* Full Powers are required to be issued to any plenipotentiary who is not a Head of State, Head of Government or a Minister for Foreign Affairs (see Article 7 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties). However, those Member States' Permanent Representatives who have communicated to the General Secretariat of the Council a general authorisation from their authorities to sign EU Agreements on behalf of their country are exempt from this requirement.

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