

**East African Community (Goods)
Summary Fact Sheet**

Table 1: Background Information

Parties	Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda	
Date of signature	30 November 1999	
Date of entry into force	7 July 2000	
Transition period for full implementation	5 Years	
Date of full implementation	7 July 2005	
Website addresses or points of contact	Official site: http://www.eac.int/	
List of related GATT/WTO documents	WT/COMTD/N/14 and Add.1 WT/COMTD/25 WT/COMTD/25/Add.1	Notification Agreement Text of the Protocol

Table 2: Internal trade liberalization

Import and export duties and charges	Chapter 11 – Elimination of all customs duties and charges having equivalent effect. Part D of the Protocol – Trade liberalization Part F of the Protocol – Export Promotion Schemes
Non-tariff measures	Article 13 of the Protocol - Elimination of non-tariff barriers.
Sector-specific rules	Chapter 18 - Agriculture. Chapter 12 - Industrial Development.
Product exclusions	Part H of the Protocol – Exemption regime.

Table 3: Common External Tariff

Provisions	Annex I to the Protocol – The Partner States establish a three band common external tariff with a minimum rate of 0% , a middle rate of 10% and a maximum rate of 25% for all imports into the EAC. The maximum rate can be reviewed after 5 years of the Custom Union coming into force.
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Table 4: Provisions of the Agreement

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
Rules of Origin	Article 14 and Annex III of the Protocol	Goods shall be accepted as eligible for Community tariff treatment if they originate in the Parties and if they meet the rules of origin criteria set out in Annex III of the Protocol.
Standards-related measures	Article 81	The Parties undertake to evolve and apply a common policy for standardisation, quality assurance, metrology and testing of goods and services produced and traded within the Community.
SPS measures	Article 108	The Parties shall establish, harmonize and strengthen zoo-sanitary and phyto-sanitary inspections.
Safeguard mechanisms (intra-trade)	Article 78; Articles 19-20-35-36 of Protocol	The Parties agree to apply safeguard measures when there is a sudden surge of a product imported into a Party, which causes or threaten to cause serious injury to domestic producers in that territory of like or directly competing products. The Parties shall co-operate in the detection and investigation of sudden surge in imports and in the imposition of agreed measures. The Council shall approve measures to address imbalances that may arise from the establishment of the Customs Union. In the event of serious injury or threat of serious injury occurring to a Party following the application of the Protocol, the Party concerned shall, after informing the Council through the Secretary General and the other Parties, take necessary safeguard measures.

Provision	Relevant Article(s)	Additional Information
Anti-dumping and countervailing measures	Articles 16-18 and Annexes IV and V of Protocol	The Parties shall co-operate in the detection and investigation of dumping. The EAC Secretariat shall notify the WTO on the anti-dumping measures taken. The Community may, for the purposes of offsetting the effects of subsidies, levy a countervailing duty on any product of any foreign country imported into the Customs Union. The implementation of such provisions shall be in accordance with the East African Community Customs Union Regulations (Anti-Dumping Measures and Subsidies and Countervailing Measures), as specified in Annexes IV and V of the Protocol.
Subsidies and state aid	Articles 17 and 20 of Protocol	If a Party grants a subsidy that directly or indirectly distorts competition by favouring certain undertakings or production of certain goods in its territory, it shall notify the other Parties in writing, setting out the extent, nature, estimated effect and circumstances of the subsidisation. The Parties shall co-operate in the detection and investigation of subsidies and in the imposition of agreed measures.
Customs-related procedures	Part C and Article 39 of Protocol	The Parties shall exchange information on the prevention, investigation, and suppression of customs offences, and the operation of a harmonized information system to facilitate the sharing of customs and trade information. The Parties shall also promote trade facilitation and simplify and standardise trade information and documentation. The Customs law of the Community shall apply uniformly within the Customs Union.
IPR	Article 103 (1i)	The Parties shall ensure the promotion and protection of intellectual property rights.
Government procurement	None	
Competition	Article 21 of Protocol	The Parties shall prohibit any practice that adversely affect free trade including any agreement, undertaking or concerted practice which has as its objective or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the Community. This provision does not apply to any agreement between undertakings, any decision by association of undertakings, or any concerted practice which improves the distribution of goods or promotes technical or economic development.
Investment	Chapter 12	The Parties will take measures to harmonize and rationalise investment incentives, including those relating to taxation of industries that use local materials and labour to promote the Community as a single investment area.
General exceptions	Article 22 of Protocol	A Party may, after informing the Secretary General, introduce or maintain restrictions or prohibitions affecting application of security laws and regulations, the control of arms ammunition and other military equipment, the protection of human life, environment and natural resources, public safety, public health or public morality and the protection of animals and plants. These exceptions cannot be used to restrict the free movement of goods in the EAC.
Accession	Article 3	Article 3 provides a mechanism for other countries to join the EAC.
Dispute resolution	Article 41 and Annex IX of Protocol	Each Party shall: accord due consideration to other Parties' complaints; accord adequate opportunity for consultations; and implement in good faith any decisions made pursuant to the Community's dispute settlement mechanisms. The implementation of such provisions shall be in accordance with the EAC Customs Union Regulations on Dispute Settlement Mechanism, as specified in Annex IX to the

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		Protocol.
Relation with other trade agreements	Article 37 of Protocol	The Parties shall honour their commitments to other multilateral and international organisations to which they belong. A Party may separately conclude or amend a trade agreement with a foreign country as long as the terms of such an agreement are not in conflict with the Agreement. Where a Party intends to conclude or amend a foreign agreement, it shall send the proposed agreement to the Secretary General which shall communicate the agreement to the other Parties for their consideration. The Secretary General shall then convene a meeting in 60 days to consider the comments and proposals offered by the other Parties.
Institutional provisions	Chapter 3-10	The Agreement sets out the procedure for the establishment of the organs and institutions of the Community as well as the formation and functions of the summit, the council, the coordination committee, sectoral committees, the East African Court of Justice, the East African legislative assembly and the Secretariat of the Community.

Trade and tariff data are not available.