Trade in Services: Day two.

INTRODUCTION.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION.

1. Interconnectivity of Financial services especially electronic transactions. Technology support to facilitate such transactions is also needed.
2. Important for the public/private sector brought on board and more engagement and solicitation of their views is given increasing attention. Umbrella bodies to formulate and to present position papers to the negotiators.
3. Make “bound” commitments on areas of financial sector liberalisation to enhance predictability of the sector.
4. In the EPAs, the right to domestic regulations will be developed further in EAC countries and will be a work in progress. Once the commitments are made and bound, it is difficult to go back on them specifically to cast in predictability on basic minimum signals. You can make commitment less than the actual level of liberalization.
5. Mutual recognition of qualifications/professional services between EAC & EU. (Titles, experience etc)
6. While recognising that the harmonization of EAC commercial regulations is clearly beneficial to the common market, it is not a precondition for the EPA negotiation process.
7. All countries/regions are competing for FDI. Important therefore to make region attractive as possible (incentives).
8. Importance of development cooperation supporting liberalization of services.

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. These are ideas for stimulating more discussion with the negotiators.
2. Sector specific discussion papers prepared by private sector representatives should be sent to the bureaucrats.
3. More specific information to be provided by the EU on the website for private sector participant’s consumption and generation of more ideas for follow up discussions.
4. EU to facilitate B2B information sharing and match making. (Pro Invest).
5. Measures agreed in the EPA must give positive signals to investors.
6. “Rules” such as on IPR are also viewed as essential to attracting investment.