

PRESS RELEASE



Roundtable
Brexit and EPAs:
Exploring the Implications for the trade of
Commonwealth developing Countries

The outcome of the 23rd June 2016 referendum has set the UK on a path to leave the European Union (EU) that will also see an end to its being a member of the EU's Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with several countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Brexit will have consequences for the UK, but its impact on these developing countries could also be far reaching. Precisely how and in what ways is however not yet well understood.

The Ramphal Institute is therefore organising a brainstorming session of leading experts to identify and better understand how this might affect Commonwealth developing countries that currently trade with the UK under an EPA.

Ultimately a formal submission by the Government under Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon will trigger talks that will define the terms of exit and the UK's future relations with its European neighbours.

Particularly since the Single Market, the UK has not had an independently set foreign trade policy. But post Brexit, it will be able to fix its own customs duties and set other controls on trade, of course within the constraints of its WTO and other international obligations.

The resulting changes to the rules governing imports, for accessing the UK market and to commercial considerations; might well be extensive. Cumulatively, they might be positive or they could inadvertently adversely impact exports from Commonwealth countries like those of the Caribbean, Mauritius, Seychelles, Kenya, Fiji, Ghana, and others with longstanding trading links. Countries that in recent years have been trading with the UK under an EPA.

When the experts brought together by the Ramphal Institute at King's College London, meet on Friday the 15th July 2016 14:00-17:00 UK time, they will make recommendations regarding further research, outreach and consultation needed to support policy making that contributes to trade development of the Commonwealth countries that will be affected.

You too can be part of the discussion; follow on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/OSOIJJMoeM>. You will also be able to tweet comments and ask questions of the experts.

For further information please contact registry@ramphalinstitute.org.