



16TH NOVEMBER 2009, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Rome - Città dell'Altra economia

EPAS and FTA impact on food sovereignty Southern civil society advocacy and lobbying activities

Since 1995 the number of free trade agreements is rising steadily. The European Union reaffirmed its commitment to sign ambitious FTA with almost all developing countries, on a bilateral or regional scheme. The **Global Europe** strategy, edicted in 2006 aims at liberalising both trade in goods and services, plus Singapour issues. Almost **136 countries** in the Global South are concerned by ongoing negotiations or implemented agreements. Especially this concerns south and central America, south east Asia and India, and finally all countries of Africa, Carribean and the Pacific region. In this ACP regions, advanced negotiations have taken place and the civil society is fully mobilized with some successes.

The EU-ACP Cotonou Partnership Agreement, signed in 2000, will approach its second revision in 2010. The European Commission established an inter-service Task Force. The ACP have also started their own internal reflections on the revision and asked a group of ambassadors to lead this process with the ACP Secretariat.

Since 2007 and the expected end of EPAs negotiations, the global context has changed. WTO multilateral negotiations fail to conclude and North countries are pushing on bilateral trade agreements.

Whether final and comprehensive EPAs will be concluded at the regional level in Africa and in the Pacific remains an open question. In the near future it is unlikely that all the regions will conclude Caribbean-like EPAs as only a handful of African countries remain committed to the ambitious EPA agenda initially set out under the impulse of the European Commission. It is fair to assume that a patchwork framework of EPAs is likely to emerge, with some countries concluding a comprehensive EPA, some limiting their ambition to agreements covering trade in goods, and others abstaining altogether from sealing any deal.

Looking at this new scenario we would like to compare the exepriences on advocacy activities on **FTAs and EPAs** of the North and South CSO, the issues on which they have focused in their advocacy on the EPAs/FTAs, the strategies they have adopted and the alliances they have established, successes, failures and challenges for the future.

Agenda – 16th Nov. - 6pm to 8pm

Epas and FTAs. Future scenarios of International and regional markets and their impact on food sovereignty and on the fight against poverty.

Monica di Sisto, Partnership for change

The EU global strategies on FTAs

Adrien Brondel, Coordination Sud

Italiafrica support to southern CSOs agenda

Nora McKeon, ItaliaAfrica

Southern advocacy experiences on FTAs and EPAs

Babacar Ndao, ROPPA

Elisabeth Atangana, PROPAC

Arze Glipo, Asia Pacific Platform on Food Sovereignty

Representative from EAFF (to be confirmed)

Representative from latin american platform (to be confirmed)

The event is launched by

