



### **Promoting inclusive trade in Africa**

*Boosting cross border trade through simplified trade regimes: Supporting local businesses to address the informal economy in Africa*

European Development Days 2017

### **BIODATA**

#### **Isolina Boto – Manager, CTA Brussels Office**

Isolina Boto is the Manager of the CTA Brussels Office. Isolina has more than 20 years of experience in development. She worked for the European Commission, various ACP embassies and NGOs in areas related to food security, rural development and trade. Within CTA, she worked in various positions at headquarters, in the Netherlands, especially on co-funded technical programmes on Agriculture and Rural Development implemented at regional level. Since 2004 she heads the CTA Brussels Office, dealing with policy issues related to the ACP-EU cooperation in the field of agricultural and rural development. In that context, she coordinates and organizes the regular Brussels Development Briefings on topical development policy issues (<http://brusselsbriefings.net>). The office produces a daily news service on key policy areas of ACP-EU cooperation, especially on trade (<http://brussels.cta.int>). Since 2016, she leads the CTA group on agribusiness development.

#### **Koen Doens – Director East and Southern Africa and ACP coordination, European Commission – DG for International Cooperation and Development**

Koen Doens is a classical philologist, who was a professor of Latin and Greek in his early days. After joining the Belgian diplomatic service, he was posted as a diplomat in Syria, Iran and the Russian Federation. Back in Belgium, he joined the Cabinet of the Belgian Minister for Foreign Trade, Annemie Neyts, and subsequently the Cabinet of the Belgian Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Louis Michel. In 2004, he joined the European Commission as Deputy Head of Cabinet of Louis Michel, Commissioner in charge of Development and Humanitarian Aid. In 2007, he became his Head of Cabinet. He continued as Head of Cabinet in 2009 when Karel De Gucht took over as Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid. On 1 February 2010, President Barroso nominated him as Head of the Spokespersons' Service, a job he occupied until the end of President Barroso's mandate on 31 October 2014. On 1 November 2014, he took up his function as Director for Development Coordination East and Southern Africa in the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development.

#### **Stefano Manservigi – Director General, for International Cooperation and Development Director-General European Commission/Devco,**

Stefano Manservigi is the Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO). An Italian national, he previously served as Head of Cabinet of the High Representative / Vice-President Federica Mogherini. Stefano Manservigi has over 30 years of experience in the Commission, including six years as Director-General of the Department for Development and Relations with Africa, Caribbean, Pacific countries and four years leading the department for Migration and Home Affairs. He also worked in the field as Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey.

#### **Frank Matsaert – CEO, Trademark East Africa**

Frank has over 20 years of experience as a senior private sector development specialist with an extensive track record in strategy, programme delivery and management in fourteen countries in Africa and six in Asia. Frank has been the Chief Executive Officer of TradeMark East Africa since October 2010 and prior to this was a private sector adviser for DFID and Country Director for Care. Frank started his career in the financial sector, as an International Fund Manager and Investment Analyst in the UK. Over the years,

Frank has designed and overseen over 40 major innovative and successful programmes totalling over \$1 billion in the fields of trade, financial sector development, privatisation, investment climate reform, market development and skills development. Frank holds two Masters Degrees in Economics and Archaeology, and is an IMRO certified Fund Manager.

**Hermogene Nsengimana – CEO of the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO)**

Dr Hermogène NSENGIMANA, the ARSO Secretary General, holds a PhD in Analytical and environmental chemistry from the School of Chemistry, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He also has Post- doctoral Studies from the Witwatersrand University and University of Botswana. Prior to his appointment as the ARSO Secretary General in 2012, he was a senior lecturer at National University of Rwanda (NUR) where beside active research work alongside teaching, he held leadership position as vice dean in the Faculty of Science and Deputy Director in Charge of Consultancy and Research at NUR. In his capacity as a researcher in environmental pollution, he was the President of the International Hydrological Program (IHP) in Rwanda and a member of the scientific advisory committee (VicSac) of the Victoria Lake research (VicRes). Dr. Nsengimana is an accomplished Standardisation expert with wide knowledge on standards development, adoption and implementation principles based on the WTO TBT/SPS Agreements. In his capacity as ARSO's Secretary General and Chairperson of the Pan African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) since its inauguration in 2013, he has addressed high-level meetings and conferences with a main focus on the role of standardization in economic development for ACP countries.

**Janet K. Ngombalu – Regional Programme Coordinator, Eastern African Grain Council (EAGC)**

Janet Kalulu Ngombalu is a professional in socio-economics and a specialist in behavior change communications in agriculture. As the Marketing Information and Communications Manager at the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC), her main tasks involve promotion of agricultural trade information systems and communications in the Eastern Africa region including Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Burundi. Janet also oversees the operations of the Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN), an information portal on all agricultural trade issues in eastern and southern Africa and she is also the chief Editor of the Grain Newsletter. Janet, an all-round professional, holds a Master's Degree in Sociology – Entrepreneurship Development from the University of Nairobi, a Bachelor's Degree in Community development from Daystar University and a postgraduate degree in Business Administration from the Kenya Institute of Management. Janet has over 10 years' experience having competently worked in managerial positions for 8 years. She is savvy in communications for development, food security, rural and urban development, agricultural and trade programmes, human rights programmes, water, waste and environmental sanitation (WASH), and climate change. Janet previously worked with Practical Action, one of the leading international NGOs in development issues and FIDA Kenya.

Info: <http://bit.ly/2q65OfZ>