

# IF EPAS ARE THE PROBLEM, IS AfCFTA THE SOLUTION?

## WEBINAR ON THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)

Although the EU-AU-summit has been postponed to 2021, relations between the two continents are on the move. Within the next months, the EU wants to present a new Africa strategy together with its African partners. At the same time, the Post-Cotonou agreement is about to be finalized, and discussions about (deepening) the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are ongoing.

These processes are taking place at a time when the African Union and its member states are working to create the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The idea behind AfCFTA is to strengthen the internal African market as well as to facilitate free movement of persons within the Continent. This shall boost intra-African trade and lead to stronger economic growth within countries.

So far, there has not been a lot of discussion on AfCFTA in Europe and Germany. Generally speaking, AfCFTA is welcomed as an African initiative. But there is a lack of discussion as to potential pitfalls of the AfCFTA (e.g. who will gain, who will probably lose?), or how intercontinental initiatives and agreements like the EPAs or the Compact with Africa will interfere with AfCFTA.

- Online Conference via Zoom
- All the hours in the program are in UTC+2 (CET)
- The webinar will be held in English, French and German
- Please fill the registration form to sign in to receive all the information by email: [www.rosalux.eu/webinar-afcfta-en](http://www.rosalux.eu/webinar-afcfta-en)

The webinar wants to contribute to such a discussion by asking the following questions:

- State of play of AfCFTA negotiations:  
Issues therein and the roadmap leading to the commencement of trading under AfCFTA.
- Pros and Cons of AfCFTA:  
how will AfCFTA reshape economic relations between and within African countries? Which countries/economic actors will probably win, which will probably lose?
- AfCFTA in the global context:  
How do intercontinental initiatives and agreements like the EPAs interfere with AfCFTA and do they support or hinder regional economic integration in Africa?

The ultimate aim of the webinar is to get a better understanding on how European policies must be crafted in order to support the realization of increased economic integration and prosperity within Africa.

### SPEAKERS

Jane Nalunga (Country Director SEATINI-Uganda)  
Helmut Scholz (MEP, GUE/NGL)  
Eva-Maria Schreiber (MdB, DIE LINKE)  
Ndongo Samba Sylla (RLS Dakar)

### MODERATION

Samuel Kasirye (RLS DAR ES SALAAM)