

NOTICE 1122 OF 2004**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY****STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FOR ONGOING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS**

It is hereby announced, for general information, that a consultative process is underway within the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) concerning a number of trade negotiations between South Africa, in conjunction with other members of the Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland) and third countries. The current consultative agenda includes the following negotiations:

1. Free Trade Area (FTA) negotiations between the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the United States of America;
2. FTA negotiations between SACU and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA);
3. Fixed preferences negotiations, as the first phase of eventual FTA negotiations, between SACU and the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR);
4. The review of the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) between South Africa and the European Union (EU), as foreseen in articles 18 and 103 of the TDCA; and
5. Consultations, in terms of article 22 of the TDCA, between South Africa and the EU with regard to the recent enlargement of the EU.

NEDLAC is the statutory body, created by the NEDLAC Act 35 of 1994, to facilitate consultations and consensus among others on trade matters between Government, Business, Labour, and community organizations. Sector Task Teams have been established to facilitate the consultative process concerning the above-mentioned negotiations. This ensures that positions are deliberated and cleared at sector level before these are transmitted to Government. The Task Teams, with the respective conveners, are listed below.

Task Team	Convener	Tel. number
1. Textiles, Clothing, Footwear, Leather	E. Vlok	021 447 4570
2. Chemicals (including all sectors)	Dr. L. Lotter and J. Nkosi	011 482 1671 082 518 9448
3. Paper, Pulp and Wood	J. Hunt and N. Mthombeni	011 803 5063 011 833 2870
4. Metals and Engineering	M. McDonald and J. Ndumo	011 833 6033 X113 011 689 1700
5. Services	N. Mkagetla and M. Hummel	011 339 4911 011 608 3817
6. Agriculture	H. van der Merwe	012 322 6980
7. Autos	N. Vermeulen	012 323 2980

Interested parties are invited to make use of this opportunity to make their views known to the South African Trade Negotiating Team. Stakeholders that are uncertain under which Task Team they reside should please contact Mr. Sandile Roro at the NEDLAC Secretariat, tel. 011-328 4200.

11 June 2004

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