

# **Trade & Environment Priorities in the Arab Region**

Issues for Discussion &  
Next Steps

## **Priorities for the Region**

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- **Market Access**
- **Competitiveness**
- **Dispute Resolution**
  
- **Production and Consumption  
Linkages**
- **Impact of increased production and  
imports on environmental  
sustainability**
- **South-South trade liberalization**

## **Issue Areas:**

### **Environmental Requirements**

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- Effect of environmental requirements on market access
- Effect of environmental requirements on the competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

#### **Possible Focus issues:**

- Voluntary v/s Mandatory Requirements
- Large v/s Small Firms
- Key Sectors
- Standard Setting
- Certification - Accreditation

## **Impacts related to**

### **Key Economic Sectors**

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- Agriculture
- Fisheries
- Services
- Tourism
- Oil/Petroleum Products
- Natural Gas
- Environmental Goods
- Environmental Services – water & energy
- Electronic and Electrical components

## **Trade-related Aspects of MEAs**

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- Genetically Modified Organisms
- Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights
- Clean Development Mechanism / Kyoto Protocol
- Ozone Depleting Substances / Montreal Protocol
- Hazardous Chemicals and waste - prior - informed consent, imports to LDCs/exports to DCs, waste management

## **Issues Areas for possible policy analysis & regional coordination**

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- Eco-labeling
- Environmental subsidies/taxes
- Technology Transfer arrangements
- Making Investment Flows into Services more environmentally friendly

## NEXT STEPS

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- **2 Sub-Regional Studies** (April – August 2006)
  - Mashreq Countries
  - Gulf Countries
- **6 National Roundtables** (May – July 2006)
  - Which countries are interested?
- Arab League *may* prepare study on TBTs affecting GAFTA Implementation
- Arab League/UNEP-ROWA preparing Possible Arab List on Environmental Goods and Services
- UNEP Green Customs Initiative – MEAs (ODS, etc.)
- **Presentation of Findings & Final Recommendations** (JCEDAR/High Level Meeting; November 2006)

## What Would You Like to Do?