European Commission JAG statement

The European Commission is very pleased with the cooperation with ITC, both regarding the joint work on projects and the exchange of information. The Commission is currently working on several projects with the ITC. These include:

- the Market Access Map (MacMap). We are currently studying possibilities to exploit synergies between the Market Access Map and the EU Export Helpdesk, which are both tools to allow developing country exporters get easy access to the relevant information about tariffs, regulatory requirements;
- the Small Trader Capacity Building Programme, which was launched in October 2012, is foreseen to last three years. It is already up and running in full speed; the ITC is organising jointly with the European Commission training sessions for SMEs in 7 LDCs. If other donors wished to join and contribute, this project could be extended to more LDCs;
- the Standards Map project; the intention is to extend support for 2013-2014 as well;
- a project to support the Consolidation of the Action Framework under the EU-Africa Partnership on COTTON, was launched at the end of 2012;
- a project on institutional and operational support for the improvement of business environment and strengthening of the competitiveness of exports from Ivory Coast, was launched in 2010 and will go on until 2014;
- Euro-Mediterranean Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism (Euro-Med TIFM) is expected to be launched on the second half of 2013 for three-years.

Looking at the future, the European Commission intends to pursue this fruitful cooperation with ITC and wishes to continue funding beyond 2013.