



# OBSTACLES TO FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS WITHIN UEMOA AND ECOWAS

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# Introduction

- The trade liberalisation scheme and the common external tariff envisage free movement of goods within ECOWAS and UEMOA in order to guarantee better competitiveness of community products.
- However, if the liberalisation scheme is applied by way of exemption of customs duties, such practices that negate the effects of this application and increase the cost of moving goods on certain corridors are a source of concern. The result of this is the loss of competitiveness of products of Community origin in favour of products originating from outside the Community.
- Taxes, transit costs and other charges levied on the various corridors and borders without harmonization are prohibitive factors for industrial development and constitute a major impediment to free movement of goods in both ECOWAS and UEMOA community territories.
- See the details in the tables below.

# TABLE 1: TRAVEL COSTS OF A TRUCK FROM ABIDJAN TO COTONOU

GUARANTEE FUND	0.25% of value
BAGGAGE TAX	-
SHIPMENT INFORMATION	10,000
GHANA LAISSER PASSER	35,000
UNION TICKET + LIST	2,000
COTE D'IVOIRE TOLL	10,000
BENIN TOLL	10,000
VISIT (CLEARANCE document)	3,000
NOE TRANSIT	30,000
AFLAO TRANSIT	300,000
TOGO BENIN TRANSIT	500,000
ROAD CHARGES FUNCTION OF CHECKPOINTS	
ELUBO TOLL	15,000
TOTAL	915,000

## TABLE 2: TRAVEL COSTS OF A TRUCK FROM ABIDJAN TO LOME

GUARANTEE FUND	0.25% of value
BAGGAGE TAX	-
SHIPMENT INFORMATION	10,000
GHANA LAISSER PASSER	35,000
UNION TICKET + LIST	3,000
COTE D'IVOIRE TOLL	10,000
TOLL	6,000
VISIT (CLEARANCE document)	3,000
NOE TRANSIT	30,000
AFLAO TRANSIT	300,000
ROAD CHARGES FUNCTION OF CHECKPOINTS	
ELUBO TOLL	15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>412,000</b>

## TABLE 3: TRAVEL COSTS OF A TRUCK FROM ABIDJAN TO ACCRA

GUARANTEE FUND	0.25% of value
BAGGAGE TAX	-
SHIPMENT INFORMATION	10,000
GHANA LAISSER PASSER	35,000
UNION TICKET + LIST	2,000
COTE D'IVOIRE TOLL	10,000
EMACI	3,500
VISIT (CLEARANCE document)	3,000
NOE TRANSIT	30,000
ELUBO TOLL	15,000
TOTAL	108,500

## TABLE 4: TRAVEL COSTS OF A TRUCK FROM ABIDJAN TO OUAGADOUGOU

GUARANTEE FUND	0.25% of value
BAGGAGE TAX	-
BOBO TOLL	15,000
VEHICLE LETTER	12,500
UNION TICKET + LIST	2,000
COTE D'IVOIRE TOLL	20,000
AXLE LOAD	7,150
ROPE	2,000
VISIT (CLEARANCE document)	3,000
POLICE AND GENDARMERIE	5,000
TRANSIT	92,000
TOTAL	158,650

## TABLE 5: TRAVEL COSTS OF A TRUCK FROM ABIDJAN TO BAMAKO

GUARANTEE FUND	0.25% of value
BAGGAGE TAX	25,000
SHIPMENT INFORMATION	25,000
VEHICLE LETTER	3,000
UNION TICKET + LIST	1,000
COTE D'IVOIRE TOLL	20,000
EMACI	3,500
VISIT (CLEARANCE document)	3,000
TRANSIT FUNCTION OF WEIGHT	55,000
MALI TOLL	2,500
POLICE AND GENDARMERIE	5,000
COSTS OF PASSING THROUGH VARIOUS POLICE CHECKPOINTS	20,000
TOTAL	163,000

## TABLE 6: TRAVEL COSTS OF A TRUCK FROM ABIDJAN TO NIAMEY

GUARANTEE FUND	0.25% of value
BAGGAGE TAX	-
BOBO TO NIAMEY TOLL	55,000
VEHICLE LETTER	12,500
UNION TICKET + LIST	2,000
COTE D'IVOIRE TOLL	20,000
AXLE LOAD	7,150
ROPE	2,000
VISIT (CLEARANCE document)	3,000
POLICE AND GENDARMERIE	5,000
TERRITORY ENTRY	10,000
NIANGOLOGO - KANTCHARI TRANSIT	250,000
ROAD FUNCTION OF POLICE	
TOTAL	366,650



# CONCLUSION

- The trade liberalisation scheme in UEMOA and ECOWAS territories has been applied in various ways and seeks to achieve its objectives given the tax charges and other exorbitant passage charges demanded at certain borders and corridors.
- The Abidjan-Cotonou south corridor is the most costly with transit costs of FCFA 300,000 at AFLAO and FCFA 500,000 between Togo and Benin. The said transit costs applied on community products negate any comparative advantage of the said products and slow down industrial emergence in our community.