

# Weekly Compass

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## Editor's Pick

### Africa unveils new Governance body

Africa has a new continental body, the African Governance Institute (AGI), based in Dakar, Senegal. In a brief interview with the Weekly Compass, AGI interim Director, Prof. Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja explained that the main 'added-value' of the Institute is "to institutionalise African reflection on governance in Africa [...]" because we think that it is important that the people who live the realities of African societies and African states are better placed to understand what is going on and to propose solutions for a better future." He announced that AIG will convene a series of Conferences in 2010, including one with Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on democracy and human rights "...to make this added-value a reality."

The AGI's programme of action was formally launched at an inaugural workshop on 3-4 November in Dakar. On 24 November, the AGI and ECDPM signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a strategic partnership, which aims to enhance both organisations' work in supporting the African Governance Architecture and enhancing the dialogue strategies and development support of Africa's European partners. Click [here](#) to view the 5-minute video interview with Prof. Nzongola-Ntalaja, and [here](#) to visit the AGI website.

#### Visit also our Programme home pages

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## Policy News

### First ACP salvo in the battle to ensure the ACP is not sliding from the EU agenda.

In a letter addressed to the heads of European institutions, Mrs. Eunice Kazembe, President of the ACP Council of Ministers, says that Europe has a unique opportunity to allay or confirm ACP fears aroused by the disappearance of the reference to the ACP Group from the EU's Lisbon Treaty depending on the response that the European Commission will give to ACP demands in the current World Trade Organisation's discussions on bananas which are expected to be concluded next month. The EU Lisbon Treaty, which enters into force on Tuesday, clearly states that the primary objective of EU development cooperation policy is the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty. However, the specific reference that safeguarded the intergovernmental nature of EU-ACP relations in the previous EU Treaty is not included in the new treaty. Click [here](#) to read the ACP Communique.

### Aid for Trade Strategies and Agriculture: Towards a SADC

No. 19, 27 November 2009

Dear Reader,

The last thing I've slipped into the Weekly Compass-Extended Version before pressing the send button is the just agreed proposed portfolios for the new European Commission. EU High Representative/EC Vice-President Ashton will face the Parliament on Wednesday, but the rest of the team waits for hearings the week of 11 January before they can formally take up office. Ashton will attend only the first day of next week's WTO Ministerial Conference with another Commissioner filling in for the rest. As can be expected a slew of interesting papers have been released this week in anticipation of that meeting. Some EU legislation on standards with potentially great impact for developing countries' exports is also nearing completion at the same time some ACP countries are questioning the value of partnerships with Europe. Preparations also continue for the Climate Summit next month with this week seeing the US and China announcing greenhouse gas emissions targets while the UN's top climate official calls on the EU to further clarify its targets and support to developing countries. See this week's "Weekly Compass-Extended Version" for all the details and more of the latest news.

All the best,

Melissa

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#### Extended version in PDF

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## Off the track

Interim Institutions and the

## agenda.

This workshop held in Windhoek from 9-11 November, co-organised by ECDPM together with several of its partners, was attended by nearly 40 southern participants from the private sector, farmers associations and policy makers. Illustrative examples of how to manage trade and production adjustments in response to new market conditions emerging provided the background to the discussion. Donors contributed on how they were approaching their support. An important message was that implementation will be mainly done at the national level, hence, the need to get this debate integrated into national aid programming processes which in turn should feed regional strategies. A report of the meeting will be published on this website in the coming weeks and DGroups will be established to share information and stimulate regional discussions and networking. Click [here](#).

## Democracy support in the EU's external relations. Additional useful information to the Council conclusions.

Last week we provided readers with the [EU's conclusions](#) and agenda for action on democracy support in the EU's external relations. These are intended to broaden the EU's approach and improve implementation through country-specific approaches, dialogue and partnership and coherence and coordination. The conclusions mention a [Joint Commission/Council Secretariat paper](#) on this issue. This paper includes additional useful information and references on this issue. Click also [here](#) to read the report referred to therein on the common elements of democracy carried out by the Member States' human rights, democracy and development experts.

## Call for papers on eastern and southern African regional integration processes.

The Chief Executives of COMESA (Common Market for East and Southern Africa), EAC (East African Community) and SADC (Southern Africa Development Community) meeting on 9 November agreed the legal documents and next steps required for the Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) for the 26 countries of these regional groupings planned for 2011. The FTA is intended to ensure a fully integrated and internationally competitive regional economic community with improved living standards for people and to promote the continental integration process. The documents have been transferred to the Member States for consideration in preparing for the next meeting of the Tripartite Summit to be held in April or May 2010. This week, COMESA issued a call for papers of about 5000 words that can be written on any of the key trade and investment aspects of regional integration which could be included in the Summit's dossier. Click [here](#) for the details.

## Africa4All. A new platform to bring citizens closer to parliaments.

The parliaments of Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda have set up this online platform to improve the quality of the services they provide to citizens, increase awareness of parliamentary activities and facilitate the work of members. Click [here](#).

## Community Capacity Building. Creating a Better Future Together. OECD.

Community capacity building (CCB) is a fairly new term for an age-old good: enabling people to define their own destinies. This book presents and analyses some of the most interesting recent developments in the field of CCB, in a variety of OECD and non-OECD countries. The focus is on how CCB has effected change in social, local economic and environmental policies. The book also outlines the common conditions required for CCB to take hold and thrive, allowing for the political voice of local communities to be clearly heard. Click [here](#).

## Development Process: Opening Spaces for Reform in Cambodia and Indonesia

How can donors facilitate the development of better governance institutions in developing countries? This paper from the Brooks World Poverty Institute analyses current development practice in institution-building through two case studies in Cambodia and Indonesia. It argues that traditional, linear, technically-driven approaches are unproductive due to the inherent unpredictability of socio-political processes. Donors should instead embrace the concept of 'interim institutions' as a means of promoting equitable political contestation and facilitating positive and sustainable change. Click [here](#) to read the paper.

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M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### ECDPM websites

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[acp-eu-trade.org](http://acp-eu-trade.org)  
[europafrika.net](http://europafrika.net)  
[capacity.org](http://capacity.org)

### Sharing information with stakeholders




**European Union-African Union Human Rights Dialogue. Joint Communiqué. 20 November 2009.**

The two sides agreed on the importance to further EU-AU cooperation in multilateral fora, particularly the United Nations. They further agreed on the need to take action to respond to the April 2009 Civil Society seminar recommendations in view of the next seminar due in spring 2010. They underlined the need of continuing the good interaction with the mechanisms of the Africa-EU Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights, and called for the Partnership to support concrete actions linked to the EU-AU cooperation in multilateral fora. The next EU-AU dialogue should take place before the end of May 2010. Click [here](#).

**European Think Tanks. Regional and Trans-Atlantic Trends. The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of the University of Pennsylvania. November 2009.**

The findings of the report are intended to bring into sharp focus the challenges facing European policymakers and think tanks and the research and analysis these organisations can contribute to the policy making process throughout Europe. The report explores how the political culture and systems have a profound impact on the role of think tanks in Europe and the US. They hope the report will lead to policies and strategies to increase the performance and impact of European think tanks. Click [here](#).



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