

Weekly Compass Extended Version

Topics monitored

Some sections may be empty if there was no news this week. For archives:

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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 a replacement 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 the [Weekly Compass-Extended Version](#) for more details.

All the best,

Melissa

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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 AGI 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 http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/7732def81ddd7ac1256c240034fe65/01c207a57a2dc360c125767a005ffdcd?OpenDocument# Visit the AGI website: www.iag-agi.org/spip/index_en.html

Other Policy News Highlights

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 Communiqué. <http://www.acpsec.org/en/trade/acpstatementbanana09.html>

Aid for Trade Strategies and Agriculture: Towards a SADC 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. http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/7732def81ddd7ac1256c240034fe65/da6ff196323966aec125764800280561?OpenDocument#

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 here for the Council Conclusions: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/NewsRoom/loadDocument.aspx?id=349&lang=EN&directory=en/gena/&fileName=111250.pdf>

Click here for the Joint Commission/Council Secretariat paper:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st12/st12390.en09.pdf>

Click also here to read the report referred to in the joint paper on the common elements of democracy carried out by the Member States' human rights, democracy and development experts:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st14/st14310.en09.pdf>

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. <http://tinyurl.com/ykh6kxs>

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. www.africa4all-project.eu/

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.

www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?sf1=identifiers&st1=842009091P1&LANG=EN

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.

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/111379.pdf

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.

<http://drop.io/melissajulian3/asset/european-think-tanks-regional-and-trans-atlantic-trends-university-of-pennsylvania-1109-pdf>

Off the track

Interim Institutions and the 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.

<http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=3643&source=rss>

Development Policy

International external assistance

South Korea pledges to double aid to Africa. Korea-Africa Forum. Outcomes. 24 November 2009.

South Korea pledges to double aid to Africa over the next three years in an effort to better reach out to the continent rich in energy resources, growth potential and business opportunities. In the pledge made at a joint South Korea-Africa cooperation forum in Seoul, the government said that by 2012 they would double the \$107 million in annual official development aid they gave in 2008. www.isria.com/pages/26_November_2009_45.php. See also the African Union website: <http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/index/index.htm>

EU external assistance

Upcoming Events

For a compilation of all events, see ECDPM's Event calendar at: www.ecdpm.org/news

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Meeting in Luanda. Website. 30 November- 3 December 2009.

www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/60_18/default_en.htm

Other news

Nigeria signs € 677 million European Development Fund agreement to support governance, trade and peace actions. EC Press Release. 19 November 2009.

The European Commission has today signed a multi-million euro agreement that aims to help Nigeria tackle development challenges in the areas of governance, trade and peace. The agreement, signed in Brussels by European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Karel De Gucht, and by Nigeria's Executive Secretary of the National Planning Commission, Professor Sylvester Monye, is an ambitious step forward in

cooperation and is a direct result of the Nigeria-EU political dialogue. It reinforces cooperation in three strategic areas: peace and security; governance and human rights; trade and regional integration with € 677 million for the period 2009 – 2013 financed through the European Development Fund. <http://tinyurl.com/yc5ebt4>

European Parliament Committee on Development. Summary of the meeting. EU Council Secretariat Report. 9-10 November 2009.

The meeting included: Sudan will not receive 300m EUROS of European Development Fund assistance confirmed the EC; Exchange with the European Investment Bank President on activities relating to technical assistance and funding projects in developing countries; Exchange with UN Food and Agriculture Organization Director on the consequences of the economic and financial crisis for food security in developing countries; EU Policy Coherence for Development; The revision of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement noting that with the Lisbon Treaty, the non-discrimination clause would need to be introduced and that the EC would like civil society to have the opportunity to express its views; A financing instrument for development cooperation with Parliament calling for scrutiny powers and the EC saying this was problematic; Humanitarian Aid Strategy 2010; Hearing on the consequences of the economic and financial crisis for developing countries and development cooperation.

register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st16/st16518.en09.pdf

See the recording of the meeting at: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eplive/public/default_en.htm?language=EN

International development and aid effectiveness

Upcoming Events

For a compilation of all events, see ECDPM's Event calendar at: www.ecdpm.org/news

The end of ODA. Death and rebirth of a global public policy. Overseas Development Institute. Live webstream. 2 December 2010.

Jean-Michel Severino will present a new working paper at this event, arguing for the need to move from the conventional measure of Official Development Assistance to the construction of clearer benchmarks for what ultimately matters: resources and results that concur to 21st century international development.

<http://tinyurl.com/yl45af4>

UN to Review Progress on the Millennium Development Goals at High-level Meeting in September 2010.

The UN General Assembly took a decision in July 2009 to hold such a high-level plenary meeting at the opening of its 65th session in 2010. At the Assembly's request, the Secretary-General has issued a report setting out a proposed format and modalities for the event, which are expected to be agreed through consultations before the end of 2009. The Assembly has encouraged all countries to be represented at this important meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government. www.un.org/millenniumgoals/sept_2010_more.shtml

Other news

The Unheard Truth. Poverty and Human Right. Irene Khan. October 2009.

Ending poverty has become the rallying cry of international organizations, political and business leaders, philanthropists and rock stars. But it is almost certainly doomed to fail if it is driven solely by the imperative of boosting economic growth through investment, trade, new technology or foreign aid, claims Irene Khan in the Unheard Truth. Khan argues with passion, backed up by analysis, that fighting poverty is about fighting deprivation, exclusion, insecurity and powerlessness. People living in poverty lack material resources but that more than that, they lack control over their own lives. To tackle global poverty, we need to focus on the human rights abuses that drive poverty and keep people poor. Giving people a say in their own future, and demanding

that they be treated with dignity and respect for their rights is the way to make progress.

www.unheardtruth.org/book.html

Aid and trust in country systems. World Bank. July 2009.

This paper provides an analytical framework for understanding donors decisions to trust in country systems or instead to micro-manage aid using their own systems and procedures. Where country systems are sufficiently weak, the development impact of aid is reduced by donors reliance on them. Trust in country systems will be sub-optimal, however, if donors have multiple objectives in aid provision rather than a sole objective of maximizing development outcomes.

<http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/main?>

[pagePK=64165259&theSitePK=469372&piPK=64165421&menuPK=64166093&entityID=000158349_20090720134118](http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64165259&theSitePK=469372&piPK=64165421&menuPK=64166093&entityID=000158349_20090720134118)

EU development effectiveness

Other news

Delegation of operational tasks to executive agencies by the European Commission. European Court of Auditors Assessment. 20 November 2009.

Executive agencies are Community bodies established by the European Commission in order to implement, by delegation, EU spending programmes. The Court's audit showed that the initiative was mainly driven by the need to compensate for staff shortages at the Commission. Clear cost savings stem from the prevalence of lower paid contract staff at the agencies. In terms of service delivery, the Court found that, as a result of their specialisation in well-defined tasks, the executive agencies are providing better service than the Commission did before. The Court found that the Commission's supervision of the agencies' work is not fully effective.

eca.europa.eu/products/SR09_13

Reform the EU Common Agriculture Policy. Website supported by ECIPE and the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

This webpage is a resource for all those interested in CAP reform: politicians, civil servants, NGO activists, journalists and citizens. The aim is to foster a better understanding of what is at stake and how to shape the future CAP. www.reformthecap.eu/

Financing for development

EU Coordination, Complementarity and Coherence (3Cs) and division of labour

Migration and development

Upcoming Events

For a compilation of all events, see ECDPM's Event calendar at: www.ecdpm.org/news

Migration, Borders and Asylum. What Role for the European Parliament after the Stockholm Programme. The Centre for European Policy Studies. 30 November 2009

The Conference aims at analysing the role that the newly-elected European Parliament would be called to play in the building of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ), under the new legal framework provided by the Treaty of Lisbon, and in view of the policy priorities set out in the Stockholm Programme. The event falls within the scope of the project 'Informing the Immigration Debate – Preparing for the European Parliament Elections 4-7 June 2009' that CEPS is carrying out with support from the Barrow Cadbury Trust.

<http://www.ceps.eu/event/migration-borders-and-asylum-what-role-european-parliament-after-stockholm-programme>

Other news

The Stockholm Programme. EU-Africa Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment. europafrika. 24 November 2009.

The draft Stockholm Programme was presented by the Presidency on 16 October 2009. Coreper held a first exchange of views on the Programme during its meetings on 21 and 22 October 2009. The European Council emphasizes the importance of the external dimension of the EU's policy in the area of freedom, security and justice and underlines the need for the increased integration of these policies into the general policies of the European Union. The external dimension is crucial to the successful implementation of the objectives of this programme and should in particular be fully coherent with all other aspects of EU foreign policy. The European Council notes that the 2007 EU-Africa Joint Strategy and Action Plan define the scope of cooperation in the areas of counter-terrorism, transnational crime and drug trafficking. <http://tinyurl.com/yjgktkj>

Climate change and development

China unveils emissions targets ahead of Copenhagen. BBC. 26 November 2009.

China has unveiled its first firm target for limiting greenhouse gas emissions, two weeks before a global summit on climate change in Copenhagen. Beijing said it would aim to reduce its "carbon intensity" by 40-45% by the year 2020, compared with 2005 levels. See also: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7821e6d8-da69-11de-9c32-00144feabdc0.html>

The EU strategy for the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change. European Parliament resolution. 25 November 2009.

<http://tinyurl.com/yj9tdlw>

US President to attend Copenhagen climate summit and offer to reduce emissions. FT. 25 November 2009.

President Barack Obama will travel to Copenhagen next month for a much-anticipated global summit on climate change and will offer to reduce the US's greenhouse gas emissions by 17 per cent from 2005 levels by 2020. Although the president will not formally be able to commit to the target because Congress will not have mandated it, he is clearly hoping that his pledge will help propel forward efforts to secure a new international climate change agreement. www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7552dbc0-d9dc-11de-ad94-00144feabdc0.html

See also: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8378890.stm> and <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8379957.stm>

Large sums promised to developing countries to help them tackle climate change cannot be accounted for. BBC. 25 November 2009.

Rich countries pledged \$410m a year in a 2001 declaration. The EU says the money was paid out in bilateral deals, but admits it cannot provide data to prove it. There have been promises which have not been fully materialised - there is an issue of trust UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. The money was pledged in the 2001 Bonn Declaration, signed by 20 industrialised nations - the 15 countries that then made up the European Union, plus Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland. They said they would pay \$410m per year until 2008 - a total of \$1.6bn. But only \$260m has ever been paid into two UN funds earmarked for the purpose, the BBC World Service investigation has found. The industrialised governments which drew up the Bonn Declaration say they never intended to put the money just into the UN funds. The Declaration allowed them to spend it in "bilateral and multilateral" ways, they say. news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8376009.stm

UN presses EU on climate change. Top climate official calls for EU to be clearer on targets and climate aid to developing countries. European Voice. 23 November 2009.

The UN's top climate official has called on the European Union to clarify its greenhouse-gas emissions-reduction targets and financial offer to help developing countries deal with climate change. Speaking in Brussels, Yvo de Boer, the executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, said that Europe needed to provide clarity on a pledge to cut emissions by 30% by 2020, a target that EU leaders have promised to adopt if they see similar commitments from other countries. De Boer also singled out financial support to developing countries, describing clarity on finance as "a lynchpin of the Copenhagen agreement". "The EU has not yet been entirely clear about its level of support....The EU must be clearer now what it has in its hand and put that final hand on the table," he said. "Leadership is about having the courage to storm the final bridge," he told journalists after meeting with EU environment ministers in Brussels this morning.

www.europeanvoice.com/article/2009/11/un-presses-eu-on-climate-change/66505.aspx

EU environment ministers confirm EU position and underline need to show EU leadership at Copenhagen climate talks. EU Council conclusions. 23 November 2009.

The EU aims for a legally binding agreement that comes into force in 2013 and builds on the Kyoto Protocol. The EU will continue to exert pressure on other parties to present ambitious pledges to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. Ministers welcomed recent developments where some parties have augmented their bids and others have offered emissions reductions for the first time. At the same time, the EU will continue using its conditional offer to move to a 30 % reduction compared to 1990 levels by 2020 as a lever to increase other parties' pledges. Ministers also debated the EU's vision for the outcome of the Copenhagen conference. It was highlighted that the main decisions will have to be taken in Copenhagen, including binding emissions reduction commitments and a timetable for drafting ratifiable text. Those decisions must be followed up with immediate action, including quick financial assistance to developing countries and measures to prevent deforestation. <http://tinyurl.com/y858mb5>

Copenhagen climate summit: 60 heads of state to attend. BBC. 23 November 2009.

Hopes for the Copenhagen climate summit in December have been boosted after it emerged that more than 60 presidents and prime ministers plan to attend. There had been concern that no strong agreement would emerge from the talks in Copenhagen. But observers say the presence of so many heads of state will radically increase expectations. news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8373551.stm

US will announce target for cutting carbon emissions. BBC. 23 November 2009.

The US will announce a target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions before next month's UN climate summit, according to a White House official. The target is expected to be in line with figures contained in legislation before

the Senate - a reduction of about 17-20% from 2005 levels by 2020. The absence of a US target has widely been seen as the single biggest obstacle to agreement at the summit. news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8375248.stm

Experts Seek Inclusion of Agriculture in Climate Talks. allAfrica.com. 22 November 2009.

More than 60 prominent agricultural scientists and leaders have decried the almost total absence of agriculture in the climate talks, warning that the climate deal to be reached next month could lead to widespread famine and food shortages in the years ahead. Signatories of a statement issued at the weekend in Rome, Italy, by leading thinkers in development include five World Food Prize laureates, former heads of development agencies, former Ministers of Agriculture, and heads of the world's leading alliance of agricultural research centres. allafrica.com/stories/200911220004.html

Food security / agriculture

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Summit and food security. European Parliament resolution. 26 November 2009.

World set for new food crisis in 2010, UN special rapporteur on the right to food warns. 26 November 2009.

Inaction to halt speculation on agricultural commodities and continued biofuels policies is paving the way for a re-run of the 2008 food price crisis in 2010 or 2011, argues Olivier De Schutter, the UN's special rapporteur on the right to food, in an interview with EurActiv. The conditions which triggered the 2007 and 2008 price crisis are still present, and panic in the international market is likely to reappear as early as next year, De Schutter said. www.euractiv.com/en/cap/world-set-new-food-crisis-2010-un-warns/article-187695

Experts Seek Inclusion of Agriculture in Climate Talks. allAfrica.com. 22 November 2009.

More than 60 prominent agricultural scientists and leaders have decried the almost total absence of agriculture in the climate talks, warning that the climate deal to be reached next month could lead to widespread famine and food shortages in the years ahead. Signatories of a statement issued at the weekend in Rome, Italy, by leading thinkers in development include five World Food Prize laureates, former heads of development agencies, former Ministers of Agriculture, and heads of the world's leading alliance of agricultural research centres. allafrica.com/stories/200911220004.html

Ethiopian farmland sales. Threat or opportunity? Washington Post (USA) via farmlandgrab.org. 23 November 2009.

The Ethiopian government is marketing its farmland abroad. The impoverished and chronically food-insecure Horn of Africa nation is rapidly becoming one of the world's leading destinations for the booming business of land leasing, by which relatively rich countries and investment firms are securing 40-to-99-year contracts to farm vast tracts of land. Relatively wealthy countries are shoring up their food supplies by growing staple crops abroad. Increasingly purely profit-seeking companies are snatching up land in anticipation of global population increases. The scale and pace of the land scramble has alarmed policymakers and others concerned about the implications for food security in Africa. But many experts are cautiously hopeful, saying that big agribusiness could feed millions by industrializing agriculture in countries like Ethiopia where currently only a quarter of the country's estimated 175 million fertile acres is being farmed. farmlandgrab.org/9167

Investment in agriculture is soaring. So, worryingly, is distrust of markets and trade. The Economist. 19 November 2009.

Structural imbalances in the world food chain have not gone away Food demand is still rising, yield growth in cereals is declining. Money is starting to pour into agriculture after 30 years of neglect. And public and private sectors are doing more to help farmers than ever. Yet alongside the increases in investment and attention, there is a turn away from trade, markets and efficiency. The trend could undo much of the benefits of new investment. farmlandgrab.org/9123

Dialogue pour le financement du programme régional sur l'investissement agricole. Agence Afrique Performance via Inter-réseaux Développement rural. 16 novembre 2009.

« Faire de l'investissement agricole un facteur de croissance économique et de réduction de la pauvreté » est l'un des engagements réitéré par la plupart des acteurs lors des travaux de la conférence internationale sur le financement de la politique agricole régionale de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, tenue les 11 et 12 novembre 2009 à Abuja au Nigeria. Voir aussi: <http://www.bureau-issala.com/#B1>

Millions fed. Proven successes in agricultural development. International Food Policy Research Institute. November 2009.

Agricultural development has contributed significantly to eliminating hunger and malnutrition, while also fostering economic growth and poverty reduction in some of the world's poorest countries. This book examines how policies, programs, and investments in pro-poor agricultural development have helped to substantially reduce hunger across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The 20 success stories presented here provide both lessons and inspiration for continued efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition among the one billion people still facing this scourge. Crucial ingredients for success include: the application of science and technology to agricultural development; sustained public investment in agricultural development; policies that encourage farmers, entrepreneurs, and companies to invest in agriculture; markets that provide accurate and timely price signals; partnerships among diverse actors in the agricultural sector; and grassroots participation.

www.ifpri.org/publication/millions-fed

The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food at the World Summit on Food Security. November 2009.

Back from Rome, the Special Rapporteur recapitulates the situation: "We now have a historic opportunity to fix the system of global governance, in order to ensure that the past trends are reversed. If we fail to seize this moment, we will be judged harshly by those who will succeed us: the generation which will inherit the world we are shaping will simply not understand. We must start the year 2010 not only with a functioning CFS but also with a genuine agenda to address the gaps in international governance. The real work starts now!".

www.srfood.org/index.php/en/component/content/article/451-back-from-rome

International Relations

EU institutional change**New European Commission. Allocation of Portfolios. 27 November 2009.****European Parliament meeting with Baroness Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President designate of the Commission. 2 December 2009**

The Foreign Affairs Committee will also hold a debate on the consequences of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 3 December. The event will be broadcast live on the internet (and a recording of the event will also be posted) at:http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eplive/public/default_en.htm?language=EN

New EU High Representative to meet Parliamentarians on 2 December. Other Commissioners to take over her trade role. European Voice. 26 November 2009. EU High Representative Ashton will face questions from MEPs about her suitability for the post on 2 December. She will attend – but she will not chair – the monthly meeting of the EU's 27 foreign ministers in Brussels on 7-8 December. Ashton will attend only the opening of a three-day meeting of trade ministers at the World Trade Organization in Geneva on 30 November. Mariann Fischer Boel, the European commissioner for agriculture, will represent the Commission on 1-2 December. The president of the European Commission, is expected to announce that Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the current European commissioner for external relations, will replace Ashton as the European commissioner for trade for the next two months, until the next Commission takes office. Barroso is also expected to say that Ferrero-Waldner will retain responsibility for the European neighbourhood policy and external assistance.

The European Commission President José Manuel Barroso was the big winner in the EU President and High Representative appointments. European Voice. 26 November 2009. An inter-institutional battle is under way between the Council of Ministers and the European Commission over the creation of the EU's diplomatic service, which will work to the foreign policy chief. Nominally, the foreign policy chief belongs to both institutions. But the choice of Catherine Ashton, a European commissioner since October 2008, puts a Commission person in charge of shaping the European External Action Service. Barroso will be equally comfortable with the appointment of Herman Van Rompuy, who is from the same political family, the EPP. Since neither Ashton nor Van Rompuy is a natural hogger of the limelight, Barroso need not fear being cast in the shade.

Barroso poised to match names and portfolios. Heavy lobbying for economic posts as centre-right dominates new Commission. European Voice. 26 November 2009**Power and Poverty under Lisbon: Building an ethical foreign policy for Europe. Oxfam International.**

November 2009. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty presents the opportunity for major institutional changes and reform to the ways of working of the European institutions. There is already some scepticism about the likely pace of change and whether the quality and depth of the debate so far has been sufficient to ensure optimal outcomes. The fundamental debates are around the challenges new EU officials will face and how their work should be shaped by a common vision of Europe's added value in international affairs. The EU can achieve all its objectives if it learns from the best practices of its Member States, makes sure that EU's foreign policy is strengthened through stronger coordination, coherence, and consensus, and that its leadership is reinforced through an independent and poverty-focused development policy. This paper sets out the areas that the EU must prioritise in order to deliver on these objectives and presents recommendations to the new EU officials.

Adaptation of Parliament's Rules of Procedure to the Treaty of Lisbon. European Parliament Decision. 25 November 2009.

www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2009-0088+0+D...

Europe's foreign service: from design to delivery. European Policy Centre Website. 25 November 2009.

As Catherine Ashton takes up her task as High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Vice-President of the Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS) is a priority in her in-tray. This Policy Brief by Graham Avery discusses the aims, structure and 'mission statement' of the new service. He argues that - to make EU foreign policy more coherent – it must ensure that the 'double-hatting' of the Lisbon Treaty is effectively put into practice, that duplication with other parts of the Brussels system is avoided, and that outside Europe the new Union Delegations speak effectively for the EU.

www.epc.eu/en/pb.asp?TYP=TEWN&LV=187&see=y&t=&PG=TEWN/EN/detailpub&l=12&AI=994

European Parliament will meet new EU High Representative next week. Will not be ready to hold hearings with Commissioner designate until January 2010. New Commission may not take office until February. FT. 25 November 2009.

The European Parliament has prepared questionnaires. The parliament's foreign affairs committee will have a warm-up session next week when it meets Lady Ashton, Europe's first foreign policy chief, for an "exchange of views". www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6b0b8de6-da00-11de-b2d5-00144feabdc0.html

German Commissioner designate Guenther Oettinger Frontrunner to Succeed Ashton as EU Trade Commissioner. Reuters. 25 November 2009.

www.reuters.com/article/idUSGEE5AN2II

The list of European Commissioners designate. EC Press Release. 25 November 2009.

<http://tinyurl.com/ygxomtw>

European Commission President to present new Commission team next week. European Voice. 24 November 2009.

Barroso wants to announce which commissioners will hold what portfolios next week, setting the stage for formal hearings of the individual nominees with the European Parliament in the second week of January. That would be followed by a Parliamentary vote on the entire Commission, currently expected to be held on 20 January. Once the Parliament has voted, the new Commission can take office. That is expected to happen on 1 February. Newly appointed EU High Representative/EC Vice President Catherine Ashton will take office on 1 December, when the Lisbon treaty comes into force. She will address the foreign affairs committee of the European Parliament on 2 December before undergoing a formal hearing in January along with the other 25 nominees.

www.europeanvoice.com/article/2009/11/barroso-begins-forming-team/66511.aspx

European Commission president expected to announce the new Commission early next week or perhaps even sooner. FT. 24 November 2009.

The Commission must be vetted by the European parliament, which is not expected to begin hearings until January 2010. www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0951f552-d935-11de-b2d5-00144feabdc0.html

European Commission launches consultation on EU 2020: a new strategy to make the EU a smarter, greener social market. EC press release. 24 November 2009.

The Commission today issued a public consultation document on giving the EU economy a brighter future through the EU 2020 Strategy. EU 2020 aims to deliver greener and socially inclusive growth, as outlined by President Barroso in his Political Guidelines. The new Strategy will build on the achievements of the Lisbon Strategy, while learning its lessons. The consultation paper sets out a vision for how EU 2020 will focus on entrenching recovery from the crisis, helping to prevent a similar one in future and on three thematic objectives: creating value through knowledge; empowering people in inclusive societies; and creating a competitive, connected and greener economy. The deadline for responses to the consultation is 15 January 2010. The new Commission will then make a detailed proposal to the Spring European Council. <http://tinyurl.com/yjkkbyk>

EC President Barroso has received final names of all 27 Commissioners designate. Nine of them are women. European Parliament. 24 November 2009.

<http://tinyurl.com/yzkf5yw>

First ACP salvo in the battle to ensure the ACP is not sliding from the EU agenda. ACP Group Communique. 23 November 2009.

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.

www.acpsec.org/en/trade/acpstatementbanana09.html

Disappearance of the ACP from the Lisbon Treaty, Joyce Van Genderen-Naar via Norman Girvan website. 20 November 2009.

The text of the EU Lisbon Treaty omits the reference to the historic relationship and responsibilities of the European Union to the ACP countries that was contained in the previous EU/EC Treaties that it replaces; a development with far-reaching implications for the future relationship between Europe and the ACP says the author. www.normangirvan.info/naar-acp-disappearance-from-lisbon/

European Parliament hearings with Commissioner Designates set for week of 11 January. Plenary vote on 20 January. European Voice. 19 November 2009.

The European Parliament will hold hearings for the 26 designated European commissioners in the week starting 11 January. To compress the auditions for 26 commissioners into one week, the Parliament will carry out at least five hearings each day, organised into two sessions a day with two or three hearings going on at the same time. The full Parliament will then vote on the entire Commission on 20 January, in Strasbourg. An extra plenary session might be called in the last week of January if the vote is delayed. The next Commission will take office around 1 February provided Barroso's team is approved by the Parliament.

The European External Action Service: the 29th EU donor? Europe's International Role blog. The Broker. 19 November 2009.

ECDPM's Niels Kiejzer draws attention to a European Voice article on the complexities that will arise for development cooperation implementation in the Lisbon Treaty institutional setup. Trade and development policy should remain the responsibility of the respective Commissioners in the European Commission, it also states that the External Action Service (to be headed by the High Representative) should cover all geographical regions.

What this means for the geographical desks in the Commission's Directorate General for Development is still unclear. It is clear that the future EU Delegations (the 'European Embassies') will be part of the External Action Service, including the people heading the Delegations. Since the development cooperation interventions by the Commission are also implemented by the Delegations, it is needless to say that the future arrangements could end up being very complicated. This short article in the European Voice explores some of these possible complexities. <http://tinyurl.com/ylevoje>

EU Common Foreign and Security Policy – The EU's role in the world

Europe: Mission Accomplished? Bruegel. 19 November 2009.

Bruegel Director Jean Pisani-Ferry writes in German financial newspaper Handelsblatt discusses the state of the European Union within the context of global governance. The emergence of the G20 as the premier international governing platform, he argues, has put the EU in a tough position: major economic decisions are being made at this global level, usurping the EU's most important role, and individual European countries that are represented at the G20 may feel that the EU is less necessary on the global scene. <http://tinyurl.com/yf6k9ho>

Conflict, peace-building, security and development (for all conflict and peace related items that are not explicitly CFSP related)

Partnership for Democratic Governance. Contracting Out Government Functions and Services. Emerging Lessons from Post-Conflict and Fragile Situations. OECD, African Development Bank. 11 December 2009.

The ability to deliver essential public services and government functions is a prerequisite for well-functioning, legitimate states. It is also a necessity if states are to meet the most basic needs of their citizens while maintaining security and stability, bringing in foreign direct investment, pursuing poverty reduction objectives and strengthening governance. The second volume of the Partnership for Democratic Governance Series investigates whether 'contracting out' core government functions and services has been conducive to capacity development. Each case study discusses the evidence and emerging lessons of contracting out in fragile and post-conflict situations. www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?CID=&LANG=EN&SF1=DI&ST1=5KSF09SV5WBX

A political solution to the problem of piracy off the Somali coast. European Parliament resolution. 26 November 2009.

The Parliament calls on the EU Council to examine the possibility of setting up a new, small-scale European Security and Defense Policy operation in parallel to Operation EUNAVFOR Atalanta to contribute to the training of TFG security forces. The approval by the Member States on 17 November 2009 of the Crisis Management Concept for a possible new ESDP operation for Somalia should in no way prejudice the decision on launching a mission, which can be taken only after a more detailed examination of the situation on the ground, making sure that human rights are respected, salaries are paid and equipment is provided and that the trained security forces are integrated into state and command structures so that, once they return, they will not turn against the government they are supposed to be protecting.

Global warming increases the risk of civil war in Africa. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. 23 November 2009.

Armed conflict within nations has had disastrous humanitarian consequences throughout much of the world according to this study. The authors undertake the first comprehensive examination of the potential impact of global climate change on armed conflict in sub-Saharan Africa. They find strong historical linkages between civil war and temperature in Africa, with warmer years leading to significant increases in the likelihood of war. When

combined with climate model projections of future temperature trends, this historical response to temperature suggests a roughly 54% increase in armed conflict incidence by 2030, or an additional 393,000 battle deaths if future wars are as deadly as recent wars. The results suggest an urgent need to reform African governments' and foreign aid donors' policies to deal with rising temperatures. <http://tinyurl.com/y8vtm2v>

EU enlargement / neighbourhood policy

Political dialogue – ACP-EU

Joint Africa-EU Strategy

[AU-EU Cooperation. European Security and Defense Policy. Strengthening African Capabilities. EU Council Conclusions via europafrika. 24 November 2009.](#)

The Council Conclusions on ESDP were adopted by the Council on 17 November 2009. The Council welcomed the progress in the “Peace and Security” partnership between the EU and Africa. <http://tinyurl.com/yjlg9bf>

[European Commission-African Union Sign Agreement on implementation of EC-AUC Action Plan for Exchange of officials and Administrative Cooperation \(2010\). 20 November 2009.](#)

<http://tinyurl.com/yk47b4d>

[EU-Africa: EU-AU 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 UN. The African and European sides agreed on the need to take action to respond to the April 2009 Civil Society seminar recommendations in view of next seminar due in spring 2010. The African and European sides 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.

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/111379.pdf

African Union / NEPAD

Economic and Trade Cooperation

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) negotiations

Upcoming Events

For a compilation of all events, see ECDPM's Event calendar at: www.ecdpm.org/news

[ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Meeting in Luanda. Website. 30 November- 3 December 2009.](#)

www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/60_18/default_en.htm

Regional Updates

Central Africa (CEMAC)

Le sommet de la Communauté monétaire de l'Afrique centrale (CEMAC) qui devait se tenir à Bangui au début du mois de décembre a été reporté. [lexpressplus.com](http://www.lexpressplus.com). 26 novembre 2009. Pour l'instant, aucune date n'a été avancée. A la fin de ce mois de novembre, doit se dérouler l'élection présidentielle en Guinée équatoriale. Il faut aménager une date acceptable par tous. Voir aussi: <http://www.lemessenger.net/?p=3346>

West Africa (ECOWAS-UEMOA)

ECOWAS –COMESA to enhance cooperation. [Comesa](http://www.comesa.int). 26 November 2009.

A delegation from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission paid COMESA Secretariat a visit this week, 16 – 18 November 2009, to exchange views on private sector development and regional integration, to share lessons and experiences, and to explore possibilities of future collaboration between the two Regional Economic Communities (RECs). An Aide Memoire was signed between the two sides sealing a commitment to collaborate in areas identified during the visit to enhancing private sector development and overall regional integration. <http://tinyurl.com/yfs8smm>. See also: http://about.comesa.int/attachments/080_e-comesa_newsletter_228.pdf

Nigeria remains cautious on signing Economic Partnership Agreement with EU. [bilaterals.org](http://www.bilaterals.org). 18 November 2009.

Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa's second largest economy, will not sign free trade deals with the European Union until it is sure it can comfortably compete, a minister has said. "Nigeria has not signed the EPA," Nigerian Commerce and Industry Minister Achike Udenwa said adding that "there are still negotiations going on". "Particularly why Nigeria is bothered is because we are the largest market in west Africa and once the EPA is signed, products coming into other west African countries will also find their way into Nigeria and that will mess up our industries completely," said Udenwa. www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id_article=16348

East and Southern Africa (COMESA)

The Secretariat of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa is calling for papers on the integration process in the region. 26 November 2009.

The vision of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is to be a fully integrated and internationally competitive regional economic community with improved living standards for the people and to promote the continental integration process. In addition, the COMESA has joined with the East African Community and the Southern Africa Development Community in a Tripartite Arrangement under which robust infrastructure programs are being implemented and proposals have been prepared for forming a Tripartite Free Trade Area covering the 26 countries of the three regional economic communities – these countries make up 50% of the countries on the African continent. Papers of about 5000 words can be written on any of these areas of integration, and will be considered for inclusion in COMESA publications to be produced for the 2010 Summit. <http://tinyurl.com/ykh6kxs>

African regional blocs to launch Free Trade Area by 2012. [bilaterals.org](http://www.bilaterals.org). 25 November 2009.

The Common Market for East and Southern Africa, East African Community and the Southern African Development Community — plan to launch a Free Trade Area by 2012. Comesa secretary-general, Sindiso Ngwenya, EAC representative Ambassador Juma Mwapachu and Sadc secretary-general Dr Tomaz Salomao met

on 9 November where a common document was produced for consideration by individual member States in preparation for the next meeting of the Tripartite Summit. The FTA will cover the promotion of customs cooperation and trade facilitation, at regional and tripartite level from early 2010 up to June 2011. By June 2011, there should be a finalised agreement establishing the Tripartite FTA, ready for signature in July 2011. When signed, member states would have about six months up to December 2011, to finalise their domestic processes for approving the agreement and for establishing the required institutions and adopting the relevant customs and other documentation and instruments. www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id_article=16367

Next steps agreed for COMESA, EAC and SADC to form a Single Free Trade Area by 2012. Comesa. November 2009.

Heads of State and Government of COMESA, EAC and SADC on 22 October 2008 conveyed in their communiqué a palpable sense of urgency in calling for the establishment of a single Free Trade Area covering the 26 countries of COMESA, EAC and SADC. These are 26 out of the 54 countries that make up the continent of Africa. The political leaders requested the secretariats of the three organisations to prepare all the legal documents necessary for establishing the single Free Trade Area (FTA) and to clearly identify the steps required. At their meeting on 9 November 2009 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the Chief Executives of the three secretariats cleared the documents for transmission to the Member States for consideration in preparing for the next meeting of the Tripartite Summit. It is expected that when the Tripartite Summit meets, in April or May 2010. <http://tinyurl.com/ybgzgl9>. See also: http://about.comesa.int/attachments/080_e-comesa_newsletter_228.pdf

East African Community (EAC)

EU concern on EAC regional integration plans. bilaterals.org. 23 November 2009.

The East African Community Customs Union project takes off against the backdrop of EU concern that the crash integration module, which anticipates a monetary union within 12 years— compared to Europe's 42 years —could deny the negotiators the time they need to agree on sensitive matters that are bound to erode each country's territorial integrity. "A joint forum between EAC and EU leaders could perhaps awaken East Africa to the need for broader and elaborate consultation before signing the common market protocol," said Tim Clarke, a EU representative in Tanzania. The pace at which the EAC has concluded discussions on critical stages of integration process has raised eye-brows even in Africa where similar projects have barely moved beyond free trade area agreements. www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id_article=16352

East Africa Common Market Becomes Reality. Broader free trade area also being fast-tracked. allAfrica.com. 23 November 2009.

The East African Community officially ushered in a common market on 20 November amid renewed commitment by the region's Heads of State to expedite the envisaged political federation by 2015. The Common Market Protocol was signed in Arusha, Tanzania. Contentious issues nearly derailed the negotiations and the signing was pushed to this month from April. Partner states were urged to expedite its ratification at national level by the scheduled July 1, 2010 date. Also being fast-tracked is a grand free trade area from Cape Town to Cairo, bringing together the EAC, the Common Market for East and Southern Africa, and the South African Development Commission that will remove trade borders among 26 African countries. A conference in March 2010 will fine-tune the document, to be signed by the presidents in April and become operational in December 2010. allafrica.com/stories/200911230351.html. See also: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200911210003.html>.

East Africa. DRC, Sudan Want to Join EAC. allAfrica.com. 22 November 2009.

The Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan could be the next two states to become members of the East African Community, EAC's secretariat in Arusha has revealed. Ambassador Juma Volter Mwapachu, the Secretary

General for the EAC stated during a press conference last week that DRC and Sudan have expressed interest in boosting the community membership from the current five to seven states.

allafrica.com/stories/200911231347.html

East African nations agree to common market trade deal. BBC. 20 November 2009.

Leaders from five East African nations have signed a common market treaty. The presidents of Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi have agreed to the free movement of people and goods across the region. It is hoped that the deal will lead to greater economic clout for the region. The common market is due to come into effect by July 2010. news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8370027.stm

East African Community Summit. Communiqué. 20 November 2009.

www.eac.int/component/content/342.html?task=view

Trade in services holds back EAC-EU EPA deal. 20 November 2009.

Trade in services remains an unresolved issue holding back further negotiations between the East African Community (EAC) and the European Commission (EC) on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). Uganda's commissioner for external trade, Silver Ojakol, explained last week that further negotiations were halted as the EAC region sought a common position on trade in services under the just-concluded EAC common market negotiations. Reaching common ground on trade in goods was easier, he said, because the region already has experience in trading in goods. The services sector, however, is still unsophisticated and developing. "For services, we have been running a separate services trading regime within the region", said Ojakol. The EAC is negotiating as a bloc with the EC. The negotiations for an EPA were due to be completed by the end of July this year after the earlier deadline of December 31, 2008 was missed. A new date has yet to be given. <http://tinyurl.com/yffike6>

Caribbean

Understanding Cariforum's Commitments in Services and Investment. Jane Kelsey. 22 November 2009.

The following step-by-step guide is intended to assist people to interpret a country's trade in services commitments as set out in schedules of commitments to the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) at the WTO and under the CARIFORUM-EC EPA. www.normangirvan.info/kelsey-cariforums-epa-services-investment/

European Commission expects common East African Community EPA position by end of the year. Business Daily (Kenya). 19 November 2009.

The East African Community (EAC) is expected to negotiate new economic partnership agreements with the European Union before expiry of an interim deal at the end of next month. Eric Van Der Linden - the head of the European Union delegation in Nairobi has said that he expects the five member states to come up with a common position when the interim one year EPA deal expires on December 31, this year. "We have had active consultations at the technical level. What remains is the signatures," said Mr Linden. According to EAC officials, certain contentious issues, especially with regard to development and aid to trade, were yet to be satisfactorily addressed. As the deadline looms, top officials from the five EAC states are currently meeting with the hope of ironing out the outstanding issues to pave the way for a full EPA, to be effected from January 1, 2010.

Other News

German Commissioner designate Guenther Oettinger Fronrunner to Succeed Ashton as EU Trade Commissioner. Reuters. 25 November 2009.

www.reuters.com/article/idUSGEE5AN2II

ACP creates fisheries mechanism. ACP Council Decision. 18 November 2009.

The ACP Council agreed on: The creation of an ACP Ministerial Fisheries Mechanism; The creation of a Trust Fund for the mechanism to be financed; The adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the Mechanism to ensure recommendations are duly taken into account when major ACP-EU programs, projects and/or texts are being reviewed; The facilitation of the creation of a high-level Joint ACP-EU body for fisheries; Inclusion of language in the revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement to provide for ACP countries to benefit from accompanying measures to improve their competitiveness in the light of the effects of tariff liberalisation; a flexible and negotiable timetable, allowing for a gradual ACP-level implementation of the EU regulation on IUU fishing; a formal position in response to the EU's Green Paper on the Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy.

www.acpsec.org/en/newfisheriesmechanism/newfisheries_09.html

Study of free trade agreements involving developing countries/LDCs. GRET-AFD. October 2009.

In the context of the EPA negotiations the purpose of the (October 2009) study by the GRET and the AFD is to help fuel the French authorities' reflection on different interpretations of article XXIV by analysing examples of existing FTAs that have not attracted complaints at the WTO. France views EPAs primarily as instruments to foster the development of ACP countries. It is therefore striving for maximum flexibility with respect to the pace of liberalisation and the extent of openness of ACP markets, wishing to make full use of the "asymmetry" permitted by the EC without overstepping the bounds of WTO rules. The aim is therefore to identify precedents and highlight examples of provisions allowing flexibility with regard to all the points at issue between the ACP regions and the EU in EPA negotiations. <http://tinyurl.com/yf2226w>

Understanding and Managing the Notification of EPAs at the WTO. Manual for ACP Delegates. May 2009.

The notification of RTAs, including comprehensive or interim EPAs, involves, firstly, a series of procedural requirements and, secondly, the challenge to provide adequate responses to questions and concerns, including legal issues, on the notified RTAs from other WTO Members during the examination process. The Manual, indeed, seeks to provide a better understanding of the provisions of the WTO Transparency Mechanism on RTAs and the procedural and substantive challenges that both the notification and examination of EPAs entail. In the process, the Manual highlights some of the complex issues which may be raised during the review process, such as those relating to the definition of "substantially all trade", transition periods for tariff liberalisation and the MFN provisions of EPAs. This is a very laudable, timely and user-friendly tool.

Aid for Trade / EPA development support**UK Minister expresses concern at the slow implementation of Caribbean EPA support. The Gleaner (Jamaica). 26 November 2009.**

UK Minister of State with responsibility for Africa, the Caribbean, Central America and the UN, Glenys Kinnock, said: "The concern that I have is that the implementation process is progressing very slowly and we do need to see more coordination and coherence directed, of course, by CARIFORUM, in order to ensure that things can move ahead." "It is a very challenging set of issues, but I think it is important that now that the EPA is signed and agreed that things can move forward and the funding can be used in a positive way for the benefit of the citizens of

the Caribbean," she said. She acknowledged that there are probably bureaucratic hurdles in the Caribbean as well as the EU, but expressed hope that "things would move a bit faster".

Botswana to receive \$385m for transport sector. AfricaNews. 25 November 2009.

The World Bank has given a \$186 million (€123 million) loan to Botswana to improve its transportation sector that would link the landlocked country to its neighbours. The Botswana government has pledged to provide an additional \$159 million (€105 million) to boost the project. The OPEC fund for international development has also pledged \$40 million (€26 million). The funding would go towards improving transport networks between Botswana and neighbouring Namibia, South Africa, Zambia. Zambia is also landlocked, but Namibia offers links to Walvis Bay port via the Trans Kalahari Highway and South Africa links to both Maputo and Durban. Durban is Africa's busiest container port. <http://tinyurl.com/yf93j58>

Executive summit on private equity placements in Africa. allAfrica.com. 19 November 2009.

Insiders at the discussions say new growth opportunities topped the agenda with leading industry group Emerging Markets Private Equity Association (Empea) reporting that fundraising activity in sub-Saharan Africa has almost tripled from \$800 million (Sh60 billion) in 2005 to \$2.2 billion (Sh160 billion) in 2008. Infrastructure and services have been particularly attractive to speculators, and are likely to see even more interest with a new World Bank report released last week pointing to potential opportunities on the continent. The study prescribes an annual investment of \$93 billion a year--15 per cent of the region's GDP--to meet the continent's needs.

allafrica.com/stories/200911191069.html

Nigeria signs € 677 million European Development Fund agreement to support governance, trade and peace actions. EC Press Release. 19 November 2009.

The European Commission has today signed a multi-million euro agreement that aims to help Nigeria tackle development challenges in the areas of governance, trade and peace. The agreement, signed in Brussels by European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Karel De Gucht, and by Nigeria's Executive Secretary of the National Planning Commission, Professor Sylvester Monye, is an ambitious step forward in cooperation and is a direct result of the Nigeria-EU political dialogue. It reinforces cooperation in three strategic areas: peace and security; governance and human rights; trade and regional integration with € 677 million for the period 2009 – 2013 financed through the European Development Fund. <http://tinyurl.com/yjbdxgw>

Learning how to benefit from the EPA. Caribbean Export's TradeWatch newsletter. October 2009.

A four million Euro project likely to field six long term advisers in the region and focussing mainly on services exports was the subject of a recent two-day workshop facilitated by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

www.carib-export.com/section.php?Sec=15&SSec=32&Info=456

Monitoring EPA implementation

OECS leaders have pledged to sign a new trade treaty before year-end. BBC. 23 November 2009.

The new accord, to be initialled by 29 December, is aimed at facilitating the creation of a single economic space within the nine-member grouping. The leaders took the decision at their recent summit in Anguilla. Grenada's Prime Minister, Tillman Thomas, said the signing of the new treaty will be preceded by a special meeting of the authority, to consider the treatment of recommendations from public consultations in member states.

www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/news/story/2009/11/091123_nibam.shtml

See also: http://www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/news/story/2009/11/091119_nibmidday.shtml

Dispute Settlement and the Code of Conduct for Arbitrators and Mediators provided for by Caribbean-EU Economic Partnership Agreement. EU position. 18 November 2009.

EU Council adoption on 23 November 2009, see:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/NewsRoom/loadDocument.aspx?](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/NewsRoom/loadDocument.aspx?id=356&lang=EN&directory=en/envir/&fileName=111411.pdf)

[id=356&lang=EN&directory=en/envir/&fileName=111411.pdf.](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/NewsRoom/loadDocument.aspx?id=356&lang=EN&directory=en/envir/&fileName=111411.pdf)

[register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st14/st14870.en09.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st14/st14870.en09.pdf)

General economic and trade issues**Upcoming Events**

For a compilation of all events, see ECDPM's Event calendar at: www.ecdpm.org/news

Should we bring Doha to closure? Overseas Development Institute. Geneva. 1 December 2009.

Is leaving the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) in abeyance and the WTO in isolation the best policy strategy in the current economic environment? Isn't one of the central lessons of the recent financial and economic crisis that multilateral cooperation and responsive international institutions and regulatory settings, are central to economic recovery and future stability? In this context, this session will debate the relevance and importance of bringing early closure to the DDA. www.odi.org.uk/events/details.asp?id=2084&title=should-bring-doha-closure

WTO Ministerial Conference. Website. 30 November - 2 December 2009.

The Seventh Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, will take place from 30 November to 2 December 2009. The general theme for discussion is "The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment". www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min09_e/min09_e.htm

Other news**Origin marking. European Parliament Resolution. 25 November 2009.**

The Parliament reiterates that consumer protection requires transparent and consistent trade rules, including indications of origin and calls on the Commission and the Council to take all necessary steps to ensure a level playing field with trading partners which have enacted origin-marking requirements. It regards compulsory origin marking as an important step towards more complete information about social and environmental production and processing standards and encourages the Commission strongly to intervene, together with the Member States, to defend consumers' legitimate rights and expectations whenever there is evidence of fraudulent or misleading origin marking by importers and third country producers. Parliament considers that compulsory indications of the country of origin of certain products imported from third countries is useful in reaching the objective of transparency and appropriate information for the consumer as well as consistency in international trade rules.

<http://tinyurl.com/yjqfsle>

Banana Agreement Nearly Ripe say WTO Delegates. ICTSD. 25 November 2009.

The long-running dispute over trade in bananas is close to being settled, say delegates familiar with intensive talks held recently on the controversial issue. However, negotiators warn that a final banana accord may only be inked when a deal is also struck on other key products in the WTO's Doha Round - such as sugar, rum or tobacco. An announcement on the banana deal at next week's WTO ministerial conference was now unlikely, several sources said. Instead, the agreement was more likely to be submitted to the organisation's General Council when it meets on 17 December. Members would have 90 days to raise objections; however, if ACP countries were to do so, the EU would not consider itself bound to follow through on its promised commitments concerning Banana Adjustment Measures. ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/62000/

Developing Countries Close to Deal to Boost South-South Trade. ICTSD. 25 November 2009.

A group of developing countries has tentatively agreed on a deal to cut tariffs and other barriers to each others' exports in an attempt to boost South-South trade at a time when multilateral liberalisation efforts are languishing. Trade officials report that negotiators from 22 nations on Wednesday reached an outline agreement on a new round of concessions under the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP), following days of meetings at the Geneva headquarters of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The draft agreement will be submitted to ministers from participating countries for discussion and approval at a meeting scheduled for 2 December. The ministers will be in Geneva for the WTO's ministerial conference starting 30 November. ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/62005/

World Bank lowers Africa forecast on global recession. Reuters. 25 November 2009.

African economies will grow by an average of 1.7 percent this year, a downgrade from an earlier forecast of 3.5 percent, as a result of the global recession, the World Bank's vice president for Africa said on Wednesday. Obiageli Ezekwesili told Reuters the continent's growth in 2010 will be 2.5 percent, down from an annual average of 5.8 percent over the last decade. "This year it is 1.7 percent and next year, we think it will probably get to 2.5 percent," she said. "Commodities are gradually strengthening, (there will be growth) if there is a resumption in private capital flows, and diaspora remittances, investments in construction then the agriculture sectors." She said Africa's economic recovery can be quickened if governments invest in core infrastructure projects and China's investment on the continent is welcome. <http://tinyurl.com/yh6uty8>

Links with West no help to Africa says South African Economic Development Minister. polity.org.za. 24 November 2009.

Africa has not benefited from its links with rich nations and should ensure economic interactions with others are not one-sided says South Africa's Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel. Patel told a conference on the continent's relations with China that Africa would continue to pursue relations which the US and Europe, but that the "centre of geo-economic gravity" was shifting to Asia and Latin America. "I will be blunt about it, we don't think Africa has benefited from the relationship with the (West)," Patel told the conference. "There are significant gaps in our own economic trajectory, some of which we have not been able to address in that relationship, so bringing a wider range of investors into our economies is necessary for us," he added. www.polity.org.za/article/links-with-west-no-help-to-africa-patel-2009-11-24

EU trade arrangements applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products. Final draft EU Council Regulation. 24 November 2009.

It is necessary to provide for measures under the common agricultural policy and the common commercial policy to take account of the impact of trade in such goods on EU objectives and of how measures adopted to implement the EU Treaty affect the economic position of such goods, given the differences between the costs of procuring agricultural products within and outside the Community and the differences in the prices of agricultural products. The charges applied to imports of goods should cover the difference between the world market prices and the prices on the Community market for the agricultural products used in their production and ensure the protection of the processing industry concerned. In order to safeguard the interests of producers of agricultural raw materials, the necessary appropriations should be made available so that goods may benefit fully from a maximum use of the current WTO ceiling. register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st15/st15403.en09.pdf

Bananas. Will the European Union confirm that the fight against poverty is no longer a priority in its "global Europe" strategy? ACP Group Communique. 23 November 2009.

In a letter addressed to the heads of several European institutions, Mrs. Eunice Kazembe, incumbent President of the ACP Council of Ministers and Minister of Industry and Trade of Malawi, recalled the fears aroused by the disappearance of the reference to the ACP countries from the Lisbon Treaty. This marks a departure from the texts currently in force, whereas the ACP Group remains the largest grouping of the poorest countries in the developing world, with a longstanding historical relationship with the European Union she said. The President of the ACP Council has clearly indicated that Europe has a unique opportunity to allay these fears or to confirm them, depending on the response that the European Commission will give to the ACP demands on bananas. This would demonstrate if Europe is definitively adopting an aggressive trade strategy based on its "Global Europe" policy at the expense of a frontline role in the fight against poverty she said.

www.acpsec.org/en/trade/acpstatementbanana09.html

Strengthening Multilateralism: A Mapping of Proposals on WTO Reform and Global Trade Governance. The GEG blog. 20 November 2009.

A discussion draft of Strengthening Multilateralism: A Mapping of Proposals on WTO Reform and Global Trade Governance, jointly published with the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). This mapping study starts from the premise that the WTO is a valuable and indispensable multilateral institution. However, after an eighty-year history, the multilateral trading system faces a suite of challenges and needs to be strengthened to better reflect the different political and economic times we live in, address the sustainable development challenges we face, and support the new aspirations of our generation. This 'mapping study' compiles a sampling of the numerous proposals and political statements on reform of the WTO put forward since 1995. This document will be open for comments and inputs until 1 February 2010. The final publication is scheduled for early 2010. www.globaleconomicgovernance.org/blog/2009/11/strengthening-multilateralism/

Momentum Builds for Discussion on WTO Reform at WTO Ministerial Conference. The GEG blog. 20 November 2009.

With just over one week remaining before the WTO's Seventh Ministerial Conference (30 November – 2 December 2009), WTO reform and the functioning of the multilateral trade system have emerged as top agenda items for political discussion. <http://tinyurl.com/yjxfrvv>

EU Hygiene Regulations implementation. EU Council Conclusions. 20 November 2009.

The EU Council invites the European Commission to prepare concrete proposals allowing the effective implementation of modernised sanitary inspection in slaughterhouses. <http://tinyurl.com/ykorpqy>

Conclude Doha. It matters. World Bank. 18 November 2009.

The Doha Round must be concluded because it will create greater security of market access. Its conclusion would strengthen, symbolically and substantively, the WTO's valuable role in restraining protectionism in the current downturn. What is on the table would constrain the scope for tariff protection in all goods, ban agricultural export subsidies in the industrial countries and sharply reduce the scope for distorting domestic support. Average farm tariffs that exporters face would fall to 12 per cent and the tariffs on exports of manufactures to less than 2.5 per cent. There are also environmental benefits to be captured. An agreement will further expand trade opportunities. Greater market access for the least-developed countries will result and their ability to take advantage of new opportunities will be enhanced by "aid for trade".

EC says Myanmar too poor to negotiate a FTA. bilaterals.org. 11 November 2009.

In Indonesia, the Commission said that an LDC like Myanmar is too poor to negotiate a reciprocal free trade agreement with. The Jakarta Post's Lilian Budiarto interviewed James Moran, director of the Asia Directorate at the European Commission on the sideline of a seminar on Indonesia-EU relations on Tuesday in Jakarta. When

asked : "Will Myanmar with its poor human rights records still be an issue in relation to an FTA with ASEAN?", Moran said: I don't think Myanmar is still an issue in the course of the FTA because the level of development there is so low that there is no way we could have a reciprocal FTA with an economy of that order, apart from the political difficulties that we obviously have." When asked again: "Will the EU also discuss an FTA with Myanmar because for the ASEAN-EU FTA to happen, it has to include Myanmar?", Moran repeated: "No, because they are not interested in an FTA and the level of development in Myanmar is far too low anyway for a reciprocal FTA."
www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id_article=16270

European Parliament Committee on Development. Summary of the meeting. EU Council Secretariat Report. 9-10 November 2009.

The meeting included: Sudan will not receive 300m EUROS of European Development Fund assistance confirmed the EC; Exchange with the European Investment Bank President on activities relating to technical assistance and funding projects in developing countries; Exchange with UN Food and Agriculture Organization Director on the consequences of the economic and financial crisis for food security in developing countries; EU Policy Coherence for Development; The revision of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement noting that with the Lisbon Treaty, the non-discrimination clause would need to be introduced and that the EC would like civil society to have the opportunity to express its views; A financing instrument for development cooperation with Parliament calling for scrutiny powers and the EC saying this was problematic; Humanitarian Aid Strategy 2010; Hearing on the consequences of the economic and financial crisis for developing countries and development cooperation.

register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st16/st16518.en09.pdf

See the recording of the meeting at: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eplive/public/default_en.htm?language=EN

Is Development Back in the Doha Round? Tufts University economists question gains for developing countries from Doha Deal. South Centre. November 2009.

Forecasts that completing the World Trade Organisation's Doha round would boost the world economy by hundreds of billions of dollars with most gains going to developing countries are wide of the mark according to this paper. The claims that developing countries will be the big winners from Doha rest on shaky assumptions, controversial economic modelling, misleading representations of the benefits and disregard for the high costs of Doha-style liberalisation for many developing countries. These costs are even higher in the turbulent wake of the triple crises in finance, climate and food. The purpose of this policy brief is to look behind the press releases to examine the recent economic projections, review previous estimates, and put these seemingly large numbers in their proper context. www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1116&Itemid=1

Governance

ACP governance initiatives

Africa4All. A new platform to bring citizens closer to parliaments. 19 November 2009.

The respective parliaments of Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda, have together set up a single online platform, Africa4All, to better communicate with their citizens. The new tool, run by a project coordinator, Gov2U, will enable the partner parliaments to improve the quality of the services they provide to citizens, increase awareness of parliamentary activities and facilitate the work of the MPs, say its promoters. The every day work of the parliaments, or the other parliaments accessed through the platform, will mean knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices for the benefit of citizens. www.africa4all-project.eu/

Governance and development partners

Upcoming Events

For a compilation of all events, see ECDPM's Event calendar at: www.ecdpm.org/news

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Meeting in Luanda. Website. 30 November- 3 December 2009.

www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/60_18/default_en.htm

Other news

Partnership for Democratic Governance. Contracting Out Government Functions and Services. Emerging Lessons from Post-Conflict and Fragile Situations. OECD, African Development Bank. 11 December 2009.

The ability to deliver essential public services and government functions is a prerequisite for well-functioning, legitimate states. It is also a necessity if states are to meet the most basic needs of their citizens while maintaining security and stability, bringing in foreign direct investment, pursuing poverty reduction objectives and strengthening governance. The second volume of the Partnership for Democratic Governance Series investigates whether 'contracting out' core government functions and services has been conducive to capacity development. Each case study discusses the evidence and emerging lessons of contracting out in fragile and post-conflict situations.

www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?CID=&LANG=EN&SF1=DI&ST1=5KSF09SV5WBX

EU-Africa: EU-AU 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 UN. The African and European sides agreed on the need to take action to respond to the April 2009 Civil Society seminar recommendations in view of next seminar due in spring 2010. The African and European sides 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.

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/111379.pdf

Democracy support in EU external relations - towards a more coherent European approach. EU Council Working Paper of 30 June 2009. Posted on 19 November 2009.

register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st14/st14310.en09.pdf

The Unheard Truth. Poverty and Human Right. Irene Khan. October 2009.

Ending poverty has become the rallying cry of international organizations, political and business leaders, philanthropists and rock stars. But it is almost certainly doomed to fail if it is driven solely by the imperative of boosting economic growth through investment, trade, new technology or foreign aid, claims Irene Khan in the Unheard Truth. Khan argues with passion, backed up by analysis, that fighting poverty is about fighting deprivation, exclusion, insecurity and powerlessness. People living in poverty lack material resources but that more than that, they lack control over their own lives. To tackle global poverty, we need to focus on the human rights abuses that drive poverty and keep people poor. Giving people a say in their own future, and demanding that they be treated with dignity and respect for their rights is the way to make progress.

www.unheardtruth.org/book.html

Democracy Building in EU External Relations. Joint EC-Council paper. 27 July 2009.

A contribution to a cross-pillar initiative on democracy building in EU external action, launched by the Czech and Swedish Presidencies in 2009. A SE/CZ non-paper outlines the main ideas behind this initiative, whose stated purpose is to increase the coherence, effectiveness and credibility of EU support to democracy building. This paper takes stock of the tools and instruments the EU has at its disposal to build democracy and makes recommendations on how they could be used more effectively. It should feed, together with other inputs, into discussions in the relevant Council bodies leading to a more coherent and overarching EU policy framework for supporting democratic reform processes in third countries. It aims to complement the work on common elements of democracy carried out by the Member States' human rights, democracy and development experts. For this latter paper, click here also: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st14/st14310.en09.pdf>

Aid and trust in country systems. World Bank. July 2009.

This paper provides an analytical framework for understanding donors decisions to trust in country systems or instead to micro-manage aid using their own systems and procedures. Where country systems are sufficiently weak, the development impact of aid is reduced by donors reliance on them. Trust in country systems will be sub-optimal, however, if donors have multiple objectives in aid provision rather than a sole objective of maximizing development outcomes. <http://tinyurl.com/yzevq6s>

EU-Africa governance dialogue

Civil society

Decentralisation and local governance

Knowledge Management and Communication

Capacity development

Community Capacity Building. Creating a Better Future Together. OECD. 24 November 2009.

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 community capacity building, in a variety of OECD and non-OECD countries. The focus is on how CCB has effected change in three major areas: social policy (health, housing, community regeneration); local economic policy; and environmental policy. 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.

Knowledge management

Research for development

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 of these organizations can contribute to the policy making process throughout Europe. The report explores how the political culture and political systems have a profound impact on the role of think tanks in Europe and the US. They hope that the analysis and recommendations contained in the report will help policymakers, public and private donors, and think tanks develop policies and strategies designed to increase the performance and impact of state-based and pan-European think tanks.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning in international cooperation

Communication for development

Gearing Up for Growth. Reducing Poverty. Bringing the benefits of mobile communications to rural villages. Business Fights Poverty. 23 November 2009.

Nokia, together with the Grameen Foundation, have joined forces to provide rural areas with access to affordable telecommunication services, thus boosting economic development in rural communities. The Village Phone concept is based on the pioneering work of Professor Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. It has since been replicated in Uganda and Rwanda. The concept uses microfinance as an innovative tool to create entrepreneurship. It also aims to boost network connections in areas with infrastructural limitations. businessfightspoverty.ning.com/profiles/blogs/gearing-up-for-growth-2

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