

# Weekly Compass

NEW AT ECDPM | POLICY NEWS | OFF THE TRACK | SERVICES | ABOUT

## Editor's Pick

### What's at stake in the revision of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement's article on migration?

The Africa, Caribbean and Pacific-European Union (ACP-EU) Partnership Agreement includes an article on migration which sets out the principles for dialogue, fair treatment, return/readmission and development support to regions from which migrants originate. The article is currently under revision, with agreement by both parties to strengthen its development dimension. There is a perception, however, that the EU's main goal is to tighten requirements for ACP countries to readmit illegal migrants. An ECDPM briefing paper on the revision, prepared in consultation with ACP and EU stakeholders, contends that readmission requirements should be reasonable, keeping in mind the capacity and situation in ACP countries. It suggests the EU balance such requests with stronger commitments on legal migration schemes for ACP nationals and enhanced protection. The paper further recommends stronger language on capacity building, brain-drain and brain-waste, remittances and intra-ACP migration, among other issues. A strategic, political dialogue on the key issues in the revision in relation to other evolving EU policies affecting the interest of ACP states is also an option to consider. Click [here](#) to read the paper.

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## Policy News

### The Spanish European Union Presidency priorities - January-July 2010

The Spanish Prime Minister set out the priorities which include the full and effective application of the Lisbon Treaty, the economic recovery of Europe and reinforcing the influence of the European Union in the new world order. Several international summits are scheduled including with Latin America and the Caribbean. Spain will also ensure the fulfillment of all international commitments in the fight against hunger and poverty on the way to reaching the Millennium Development Objectives. ECDPM will be working with the presidency on several development issues. Further details will be provided in 2010. Click [here](#) to visit the Spanish EU Presidency website. Click [here](#) for the draft 18 month programme of the Council prepared by the future Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian EU Presidencies.

**European Commission working on measures to increase aid effectiveness and budget support**

No. 22, 18 December 2009

Dear,

Today is D-day at the Copenhagen Climate Summit. Over 100 Heads of Government are there to wrap up a week's worth of tense negotiations, which according to the latest news from the EU as I push the send button, are still not progressing satisfactorily. We've compiled the most relevant reports in the [Weekly Compass-Extended Version](#). And have a look [here](#) tonight to see the outcome. There was quite a bit of activity on the trade front this week. The EC published its list of beneficiary countries which qualify for the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance provided by the scheme of generalised tariff preferences. Fiji and Haiti signed their Economic Partnership Agreements while Central African Ministers called for a study to be carried out on the impact of the implementation of the Cameroon-EU EPA on regional integration. And the EU also adopted regulations on contaminants in spices and liquorice as well as on third country exports of organic farming products. Finally, ECDPM has a [vacancy](#) for a Programme Officer for the Economic and Trade Cooperation Programme. See the [Weekly Compass-Extended Version](#) for all the details on this and much more. This is the final Weekly Compass of 2009. The next issue will be published on 8 January. So let me take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday and [season's greetings](#) from all of us at ECDPM.

All the best,

Melissa

Melissa Julian  
[mj@ecdpm.org](mailto:mj@ecdpm.org)

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The EC has started further work on measures to support implementing organisations and beneficiaries of EC external aid projects in the management of EC funds, including through the development of a Financial Management Toolkit for use by beneficiaries of EC external aid projects. As regards budget support, guidelines are currently being revised to improve the design and assessment of eligibility conditions and of specific results-oriented indicators in order to achieve a more rigorous results-oriented approach. Click [here](#) for more information. Click [here](#) to see also the Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the report.

### **En route to the 2010 African Economic Outlook report on public resource mobilisation and aid in Africa**

The 2010 African Economic Outlook will have as its special focus, public resource mobilisation and aid. A key part of the study will be to take stock of taxation policy and administration across the African continent with the aim of identifying structural problems, key political issues and best practices. This will be based primarily upon on-the-ground country investigations and expert opinion collected in meetings like the one referred to [here](#). The 2010 African Economic Outlook will be launched during the Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank in May 2010.

### **European Union Presidency report to the Council on the organisation of the Office of the EU Special Representative to the African Union**

The EU's Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council takes note of this report. It states that the existence of an EU delegation as an EU focal point vis-à-vis the AU and other partners has had an impact and has provided a timely response to the call for an "enhanced EU presence within the AU" at the moment of launching the Africa/EU strategic partnership. Moreover, the delegation is able to draw on the political weight of both the Commission and the Council and the full range of resources available, including information exchange. It contributes to stronger coordination, coherence and collective impact of the "EU family" such as more compact EU presence and enhanced EU profile, in close cooperation with Member States' delegations present in Addis Ababa. The delegation is helping to ensure synergies and more coherent use of the different existing EU, EC and Member States' instruments. Click [here](#) to read the report. And click [here](#) for the 4th Link! Newsletter from EU Delegation to African Union. This issue is dedicated to the topic of infrastructure and cooperation between EU and Africa in this field.

### **EU-ACP Trade.Com announces tenders**

Tenders include: Technical Assistance to Draft Competition Laws for Countries in the SADC Region; An Analysis of the Regulatory Regimes, Statistical Data and Market Opportunities for Specific Services Sectors in the EU under EPA for Botswana; Urgent deployment in Brussels of a Trade negotiations strategy Expert for the CEAAC; and Recruitment of a trade expert to perform the functions of Chief Technical Adviser to the Eastern and Southern Africa configuration for the EPA negotiations in 2010. You can express an interest in tenders to be launched until Tuesday 22 December by writing to : [tenders@tradecom-acpeu.org](mailto:tenders@tradecom-acpeu.org) Calls for tenders will be launched in January 2010, pending approval of tenders' files. 10th EDF Procedures will apply. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **France hopes the EU will propose original solutions to relaunch ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations**

French trade and cooperation ministers wrote to the EU Presidency, the EC and EU Member States proposing that they take the initiative to find flexible trade arrangements for regional agreements. They suggest that the EU could envisage a more

## Off the track

### **All-of-government conflict assessment and civil society consultation: Critical reflections from Bosnia-Herzegovina**

Andrew Sherriff describes this process undertaken to develop the integrated country conflict prevention strategy of the United Kingdom. He seeks to provide a technical description of and lessons learned from the process and to raise more fundamental questions about what assessments can and cannot achieve. Click [here](#) to read the paper.

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### **Sharing information with stakeholders**



limited opening of ACP markets than the current 80% being proposed and to be allowed longer trade liberalisation transition periods. They also call for discussions on financial accompanying measures. Click [here](#) for more (article in French).

### **Aid, Dutch Disease, and Manufacturing Growth**

This paper examines the effects of aid on the growth of manufacturing. It finds that aid inflows have systematic adverse effects on a country's competitiveness, as reflected in the lower relative growth rate of exportable industries. The paper provides some evidence suggesting that the channel for these effects is the real exchange rate appreciation caused by aid inflows. It conjectures that this may explain, in part, why it is hard to find robust evidence that foreign aid helps countries grow. Click [here](#) to read the paper.

### **ACP Civil Society Forum decides to create a network for the exchange of information and dialogue through the internet**

Participants meeting on 10-11 December in Brussels agreed upon a coordinator for each of the six ACP regions. Dominique Delicour of the European Commission made a presentation on the participation of ACP civil society in the European Development Fund and provided an overview of ACP programmes adopted and the budget foreseen (191,6 million Euro for the 10th EDF). She said that there is a strong appeal and push for better and more involvement and engagement of civil society and that it is important for civil society to seize this momentum and to participate in the regional seminar planned by the Commission to be held in Mali in 2010 in the framework of structured dialogue. She also informed the participants about the [EC study](#), done with the collaboration of ECDPM, on Civil Society participation and urged them to read this. Click [here](#) for more on the civil society meeting.

### **Capacity.org newsletter. Focus on local capacity developers**

Local expertise to support people and organisations in developing their capacities is arguably one of the most valuable resources a society can have to boost development. In this issue of Capacity.org the focus is on local capacity developers (LCDs) who 'own' this expertise. LCDs facilitate change, explore new ways of working and help enhance capacity, knowing what long-term development requires. This expertise is usually found among local consultants and NGOs, and in higher education and research institutes. Click [here](#) to read the full newsletter.

### **ECDPM posts the latest news on international relations, development, economic, trade and governance policies daily on its website.**

Click [here](#) to access the full list of all the news we've collected this week. A convenient "Topics" feature also allows you to quickly scan your specific areas of interest.



Publisher: The Weekly Compass is produced by ECDPM ([www.ecdpm.org](http://www.ecdpm.org)) with financial resources provided by our core funder, the government of the Netherlands, and other financial partners - Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Luxemburg, Portugal, Switzerland and the UK.

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Editor: Melissa Julian, e-mail: [mj@ecdpm.org](mailto:mj@ecdpm.org) Call or SMS on mobile +32 (0)47 328 11 65 - Fax +32 (0)2 380 31 55 Visit [Melissa's Profile](#)

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