

Weekly Compass

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

New at ECDPM

All-Centre

Europe's global challenge: three crucial months

The challenges at the nexus between the global economy, climate and security are intensifying. Europe has a critical opportunity to emerge as a progressive force in tackling these global problems, says ECDPM's director Paul Engel together with other three leading figures in the continent's development-policy arena: Simon Maxwell, Dirk Messner & Pierre Schori. Click [here](#) to read the paper.

ECDPM hosts informal brainstorming meeting on Lisbon Treaty. Maastricht. 16 September 2009.

Forty EU senior officials representing a majority of member state development cooperation administrations met this week as member states start to prepare discussions on this issue in preparation for the possible ratification of the Treaty. Among the key points that appeared to command general agreement at the meeting it emerged that while acknowledging some risks, participants generally hoped that with progress in EU integration and a stronger EU profile in the world, EU development cooperation would be strengthened by the forthcoming changes. Expectations were also high in terms of the new Treaty provisions encouraging greater consistency in EU external action and with that a good framework for encouraging policy coherence for development and the necessary policy space for development cooperation to thrive. A number of key points for action were identified. A full report of the meeting will be published by early October. Click [here](#) to read more.

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Policy News

Development Policy and International Relations

Last push of meetings and papers ahead of next week's G20 Summit

The European Union and the United States pushed this week for the G20 Summit's focus to be on reducing global economic imbalances to ensure sustainable economic recovery. China is pushing for focus on monitoring financial risks and avoiding protectionism. G20 finance leaders agreed the broad outlines of a tough new regulatory framework for financial institutions. Several reports published this week by the UN, OECD and others predict that Foreign Direct Investment is likely to drop around the world this year, that 25m jobs in high-income countries remain at risk from crisis and that there is a risk of a "double-dip" recession. The largest group ever of world investors called for a strong global Climate Change Treaty. At the same time, there were reports that climate change could cost some countries up to 19 percent of their gross domestic product by 2030. The WTO Director-General forecasts a 10 percent drop in merchandise trade volumes for 2009.

Support for developing countries will be a major item on the G20's agenda. A UN report warns that the world is likely to suffer more economic and environmental disasters if the richest countries fail to shoulder their share of development aid to poorer nations. The negative fallout from climate change is being increasingly viewed as a potential security threat to nation states worldwide. The World Bank's 2010 World Development Report calls on the developed world to lead global efforts to cut carbon emissions and for rich nations to act immediately and forcefully to cut greenhouse gas emissions or the steeply rising cost of climate change will fall disproportionately on poor countries. And using Africa's vast agricultural resources to help tackle climate change could earn the continent \$1.5 billion a year says the report. The head of the United Nations relief agency said on Wednesday that food aid is at

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Dear,

Next week, on 24-25 September, the leaders of the world's 20 largest economies will meet in Pittsburgh, USA, for the autumn's G20 summit. The global economic crisis and the financing of action on climate change are set to be the main items on the agenda. The last preparatory meetings ahead of Pittsburgh have taken place this week and draft agendas are still being finalised. Clearly there is much work remaining to be done ahead of the December Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen. European leaders fear that US President Obama is investing so much political capital in the US health care reform that his administration will not succeed in passing climate change legislation before the Copenhagen talks or have the political strength to persuade its domestic critics to accept a deal on trade liberalisation in the World Trade Organisation anytime soon.

Following the European Parliament's appointment this week, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso will be able to start assembling a team of commissioners. The size of the future Commission will depend on the result of the Irish referendum on the Lisbon treaty on 2 October. If the Irish vote 'Yes' and the ratification of the treaty is completed in Poland and the Czech Republic, EU governments will take a decision to keep the size of the Commission at 27, ie. one per member state. Once Barroso has assembled his team they will have to undergo hearings at the Parliament. These are likely to be held in November. Then the Parliament will vote on whether to approve the entire Commission, including its president. This vote will require an absolute majority of MEPs - 369, if the Lisbon treaty has been ratified by then. Once the Parliament has voted, EU leaders will confirm the appointment of the entire Commission. The newly appointed Commission would then start work in 2010 once the Lisbon treaty enters in force.

All the best,

Melissa
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Extended version in PDF

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Off the track

Remember the days before mobile telephones came along? Can't imagine your life without one now, right?

Similarly, we believe the potential of social media is limitless, it is the

a 20-year low despite the number of critically hungry people soaring this year to its highest level ever.

European NGOs argue that the G20 has delivered less than half the money promised to poor countries and that there is the need to go beyond these, if poor people are to be protected. The French Foreign Minister launched the discussion on the feasibility of a voluntary tax contribution that would be diverted for the common good. Such a tax would raise €30bn that would be used to finance new initiatives, particularly to help Africa.

Yesterday, EU leaders agreed their joint position for the G20 summit. NGOs are critical.

Click [here](#) to see all the documents referred to above.

Economic and Trade Cooperation

South Africa-European Union Summit. Joint Statement. 11 September 2009.

The statement covers all areas of cooperation. The two sides engaged in a frank and open discussion with regard to the Economic SADC-EC Partnership Agreement, and on the implications that these negotiations, at all its stages, have on current processes of regional integration in Southern Africa. They agreed to urgently pursue the negotiation and resolution of all outstanding issues with a view to a prompt and mutually satisfactory conclusion that supports regional integration and development in Southern Africa. Click [here](#) to read more.

EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council Conclusions. 7 September 2009.

The Council took note of the views expressed by the German delegation, supported by a large number of EU delegations, regarding the issue of simplification of the European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to which the Swedish EU Presidency intends to return in November. The Council noted the earlier paper tabled by EU Member States including a gross list with proposals regarding simplification of the CAP. The Council also took note of the outcome of the work of the High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the Agro-Food Industry presented by the Commission and adopted its action plan. Click [here](#) to read more.

1st meeting of the CTA Trade Advisory Group and Partnership Network, 9-11 September 2009, Brussels, Belgium

The first meeting of the CTA Trade Advisory Group and Partnership Network has been held from 9-11 September 2009 in Brussels. This meeting gathered around 50 ACP-EU stakeholders working on agricultural trade issues in order to advise CTA on its programme of activities for the coming period 2010-2012. ECDPM participated in the meeting as part of a new joint initiative on agriculture and trade and Aid for Trade to be launched next year. Click [here](#) to read more.

Governance

Context Matters. Nils Boesen in Capacity.Org. September 2009.

A spectre is haunting donors - the spectre of insignificance. Once the world seemed to be on a rather straight path towards universal well-being: donors could provide investments to boost the economy (1960 and 1970s), or pay attention to basic needs (1980s) or press for market and fiscal policy reforms (1990s). Today, donors herald the virtues of target-driven comprehensive planning with a focus on social sectors, embodied in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). These efforts throughout the decades have been accompanied by mountains of training and technical assistance aimed at developing capacity. Click [here](#) to read more.

next revolution. Before you dismiss thinking it is too complicated to figure out; too expensive to implement; need too much bandwidth; your supervisor/colleagues would never approve; more suitable for geeks and teenagers than for you as a researcher, a manager, a communicator; it'll take too much time. Social media tools such as blogs, wikis, social bookmarking and many more offer an opportunity to increase your visibility, learn what others are doing...and yes, many of these tools are designed for low-bandwidth. The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) ICT-KM Program has prepared a series where you can learn what social media tools can do for you. Collaborate, Create, Communicate! is their motto....social media is the way to do it!

Click [here](#) to read more.

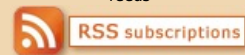
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