

Weekly Compass

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Editor's Pick

Africa-EU workshop on resources for the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and first Action Plan. Addis. 5-7 October 2009.

The workshop identified the gaps hampering the implementation of the partnership. ECDPM provided background papers to the preparatory meeting of the African side. Meetings of experts and senior officials continue this week in the run-up to the Africa-EU Ministerial Troika meeting being held on 14 October in Addis Ababa. See the Weekly Compass-Extended Version (see the link in the right hand column) for more details.

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Policy News

Conclusion of Cotonou Partnership Agreement mid-term review in sight.

The European Parliament's Development Committee held a private meeting with EC official Wolfram Vetter to discuss progress. Monthly meetings will follow ahead of the scheduled May/ June 2010 signing of the agreement. Click [here](#) for an ECDPM presentation setting out the reasons behind the review and its process.

From 1 October 2009 all products from all least developed countries enter the EU market duty and quota free.

The European Union's "Everything but Arms" regulation included transitional restrictions for sugar and rice which have now lapsed thus granting full 100 per cent duty-free and quota-free market access for all products from all LDCs. Click [here](#) for more.

West Africa-EU Economic Partnership Agreement Regional Preparatory Task Force discusses progress made on the EPA Development Plan.

Discussions focused on the national operational components, as well as the EU response to the plan. ECDPM's Dan Lui, Jeske van Seters and San Bilal contributed by means of a presentation and draft background paper. A regional seminar will be organised on 15 - 16 October 2009 in West Africa. Click [here](#) for more.

The second phase of the implementation of the EC's Technical Cooperation Backbone Strategy is launched.

A revised work plan translates the focus to the operational level, with EC delegations playing a central role. Click [here](#) for more.

Understanding Decentralisation and How to Support it.

At a recent seminar in Brussels, experts gathered to learn how

No. 12, 12 October 2009

Dear,

This Weekly Compass focuses on last week's meetings of European and African Union officials to discuss the financing of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

We also report on the latest progress in relation to the review of the EU-ACP Cotonou Agreement and in the Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations.

We also report on the launch of the second phase of the implementation of the EC's Technical Cooperation Backbone Strategy as well as provide a list of upcoming meetings and key resources in relation to decentralisation and EC external relations support procedures.

I hope that you find the information provided useful in your work.

All the best,

Melissa
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Extended version in PDF

Find the extended version of this newsletter online

Off the track

The Future of U.S. Development Policy. Make Your Voice Heard.

Global Washington's Presidential Study Directive team invites the NGO community to provide evidence and field experience-based responses that will help them as they continue their government-wide review of global development policy. The review, expected to be completed by January. Click [here](#) for more information.

Services

development practitioners can strengthen the effectiveness of EC activity in this area with visiting experts from Burkina Faso, France, Madagascar, and Mali. Click [here](#) for more.

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

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