

Weekly Compass Extended Version

Topics monitored

These topics are monitored, but some sections may be empty if there was no news this week.

New at ECDPM.....	2
Off the track.....	3
Policy News.....	4
Development Policy.....	4
International external assistance.....	5
EU external assistance.....	5
International development and aid effectiveness.....	6
EU development effectiveness.....	6
Financing for development.....	7
EU Coordination, Complementarity and Coherence (3Cs) and division of labour.....	7
Migration and development.....	7
Climate change and development.....	8
Food security / agriculture.....	9
International Relations.....	10
EU institutional change.....	10
EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) – The EU's role in the world.....	11
Conflict, peace-building, security and development (for all non-CFSP related items).....	12
EU enlargement / neighbourhood policy.....	14
Political dialogue – ACP-EU.....	14
Joint Africa-EU Strategy.....	14
African Union / NEPAD.....	15
Economic and Trade Cooperation.....	16
Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) negotiations.....	16
Aid for Trade / EPA development support.....	17
Monitoring EPA implementation.....	19
General economic and trade issues.....	19
Governance.....	21
ACP governance initiatives.....	22
Governance and development partners.....	23
EU-Africa governance dialogue.....	25
Civil society.....	26
Decentralisation and local governance.....	27
Knowledge Management and Communication.....	27
Capacity development.....	27
Knowledge management.....	27
Research for development.....	27
Monitoring, evaluation and learning in international cooperation.....	27
Communication for development.....	28

No. 6 - 31 July 2009

Dear Reader,

As I take off for some (much needed!) vacation, ECDPM colleagues, partners and other key stakeholders are still in meetings and will continue in their preparations for what promises to be a busy autumn in ACP-EU relations. Some major global and EU reforms will be considered, and possibly agreed, in economic and trade cooperation, development policy and international relations and in the area of governance, which will determine future ACP-EU relations and the overall role of development cooperation within a newly emerging arena of external relations.

ECDPM will be continuing its research, facilitation and information dissemination work in these policy processes. I'll use the *Weekly Compass* to inform you on activities. But we are not trying to raise our profile for the sake of it, but to improve debates on these important issues. So, please, send me your comments and suggestions on how to do that via whatever form is easiest for you – e-mail, sms, facebook, twitter or a phone call.

I look forward to speaking again on 4 September. In the meantime, have a nice, well deserved, relaxing summer break with your loved ones.

Melissa

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New at ECDPM

New in the Development Cooperation and International Relations Programme

Europafrica Bulletin. 29 July 2009. ECDPM

This monthly e-alert provides the latest news and resources on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) and beyond. Included in the latest issue is a summary of a recent high-level workshop, organised by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Addis Ababa office, on peace and security threats and responses in Africa to the year 2030. ECDPM outlined the nature and consequences for EU support of African Peace and Security Architecture looking forward to 2030 and raised the issue of how EU support can genuinely build and enhance endogenous African capacity in sustainable peace and security on the African continent and improve the impact of enhanced dialogue under the JAES.

The Europafrica Bulletin also includes updates on Africa-EU dialogue processes; recent institutional developments relating to the African Union; and an overview of upcoming Africa-EU events.

<http://europafrica.net/2002/01/03/europafrica-bulletin-issue-28-29-july-2009/>

New in the Economic and Trade Cooperation Programme

Global Financial and Economic Crisis: Analysis of and Implications for ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). ECDPM /SAIIA/ODI. July 2009.

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), this study was carried by Sanoussi Bilal (ECDPM), Peter Draper (SAIIA) and Dirk Willem te Velde (ODI). The report explores the impacts of the current global recession for developing countries, highlighting, among other effects: the continued decline of trade and investment flows, lower remittances, lower and more volatile commodity prices, and an increase in poverty and malnutrition for the most vulnerable people. It explores a range of strategies to address these impacts, including the creation of effective regional markets and building in greater flexibility in the ongoing EPA negotiations to adequately address the short and medium terms adjustment needs of African ACP countries and regions.

[http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Download.nsf/0/E5475EB00EAB318EC1257604002F2EC5/\\$FILE/09-92-e_%20Global%20Fin%20and%20Ec%20Crisis%20in%20EPAs_layout_edSBab.pdf](http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Download.nsf/0/E5475EB00EAB318EC1257604002F2EC5/$FILE/09-92-e_%20Global%20Fin%20and%20Ec%20Crisis%20in%20EPAs_layout_edSBab.pdf)

Report of an informal expert workshop on contentious issues in the EPA negotiations. Brussels. 8-9 July 2009.

At this workshop convened by ECDPM, a small group of ACP and EU experts shared their perspectives on two interrelated issues at the heart of current ACP-EU trade relations. These are the contentious issues in negotiations towards Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and regional mechanisms for the delivery of development support to accompany trade liberalisation. For a summary of the workshop outcome, please click here:

[http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Download.nsf/0/22080F9CAF1A3C98C125760400354015/\\$FILE/ECDPM%2030-07-09%20Summary%20Report%20-%20Informal%20seminar%20on%20EPAs%20and%20AFT%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Download.nsf/0/22080F9CAF1A3C98C125760400354015/$FILE/ECDPM%2030-07-09%20Summary%20Report%20-%20Informal%20seminar%20on%20EPAs%20and%20AFT%20FINAL.pdf)

Trade Negotiations Insights. Vol. 8. No. 6. July/August 2009. ECDPM-ICTSD. (this issue will be posted at this website on 4 August 2009.)

Articles include:

- The EC-SADC EPA: The Moment of Truth for Regional Integration (Aurelie Walker)
- Editorial & News and publications
- In brief

- The Future of the Southern African Customs Union (Peter Draper et Nkululeko Khumalo)
- TNI Talks to Daniel Moroka, Botswana's Minister of Trade and Industry
- Tracing the Special and Differential Treatment principle through the CARIFORUM EPA (Alisa DiCaprio and Silke Trommer)
- Protected Geographical Indications for ACP Countries: A Solution or a Mirage? (Vincent Fautrel et al.)
- Stimulating an Island Nation: The Logic behind Mauritius' Additional Stimulus (Raj Makoond)
- The Efficacy of the Stimulus Package (Ahmed Parker)
- WTO Roundup
- EPA Negotiations update
- Calendar and resources

<http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/index.php?loc=tni/>

Kick off Meeting NETRIS, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, 22 -24 June 2009.

ECDPM is one of the associates of NETRIS aiming to strengthen regional integration studies in the ACP countries. The specific purpose of NETRIS is to establish and coordinate a network of ACP Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) working within the field of (comparative) regional integration. The overall objectives of the network are to strengthen the research and training capacities of the partners in the field of regional integration studies, to stimulate mutual learning, shared practices and collective dissemination, and encourage policy relevant research. ECDPM's Aurelie Walker contributed to this meeting.

http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Navigation.nsf/index2?readform&http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/7732def81ddd7ac1256c240034fe65/1f5f5acdc5228ae1c1257408004e7e83?OpenDocument

Off the track

Web 2.0 tools and governance: A story with surprising twists and turns. World Bank Blog. July 2009.

A recent blog World Bank blog post titled: "140 characters is a novel when you're being shot at," reflects on how ordinary citizens facing unprecedented political, socio-economic, and environmental crises are appropriating information tools in remarkable new ways. From the recent "Twitter revolution" in Iran, to less familiar, but no less remarkable achievements of ordinary people in Africa and Asia using simple mobile phones to highlight their problems, the article looks at how and why social networking tools have become so important for improved governance. The blog cautions, however, that in the rush to celebrate Web 2.0 tools, one should not underestimate the risks: not only with regard to security and privacy concerns, but the growing proliferation of inaccurate, malicious and even harmful information in social networks. This "trust" factor, the blog argues, could potentially be the single biggest challenge that Web 2.0 will have to overcome.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/governance/140-chars-is-a-novel-when-youre-being-shot-at>

This week's Development Policy and International Relations feature stories

2009-10 a key defining moment in reform of EU institutions and international relations

EU institutions are undertaking thorough reviews of all aid instruments and their programming in 2009/10. This review is taking place at 3 levels:

1. Finance: with the mid-term review of the Community multiannual financial framework 2007-2013 also known as the 'Financial Perspectives'. The process of revising the EU's complex financial regulations, often cited as a key reason for delays in delivering EU external relations support, started in June 2009 and is due to be completed in January 2010. The financial regulation for the ACP-EU cooperation's financial instrument, the European Development Fund (EDF), is normally harmonised with the adopted EU Budget financial regulation.
2. Policy/legislation: with the mid-term review of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement and review of the legal basis of the instruments established in 2007 under the EU's multiannual budgetary framework (including the EU's development cooperation instrument);
3. Strategy: with the review of the multi-annual strategies of the geographic and thematic programmes governed by the EU budget and EDF instruments, as well as the country strategy papers.

It is at that this third level, also referred to as the programming of aid, that changes having a direct impact on aid delivery and participation of civil society will probably occur. It is therefore significant that while the EC has indicated it would welcome civil society input, it has provided little additional guidance on the nature of such input.

European Commission launches reflection on strategic objectives and budget for sustainable development. EC Communication. 24 July 2009.

The paper, "Mainstreaming sustainable development into EU policies: 2009 Review of the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development" launches a reflection on how one of these instruments - the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) - should evolve in the future and how it could be better aligned with other cross-cutting EU strategies. The Communication particularly stresses the need to find greater synergy with the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, which will be reviewed in 2010. The progress report will now be handed to EU leaders, who are expected to review priorities and provide orientation for the future strategy later this year. In the parallel discussions on revisions to the EU's 2000 Lisbon Strategy, 'green growth' and environmental sustainability are likely to feature high among the strategy's new priorities. The process continues through the EU legislative procedure up to the EU summit in March 2010, which will adopt main policy orientations for Lisbon post-2010. A broad network of civil society organisations and other groups recently formed an umbrella lobby group, the Spring Alliance, to try and influence this debate.

http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/docs/com_2009_400_en.pdf

For background information and analysis, see EurActive's exhaustive coverage of the current Reviews of EU Sustainable Development and Lisbon strategies. 28 July 2009 at the following pages:

<http://euractiv.com/en/opinion/growth-jobs-reshaping-eu-lisbon-strategy/article-183277>

<http://euractiv.com/en/opinion/eu-launches-reflection-future-green-policies/article-184400#>

<http://euractiv.com/en/opinion/growth-jobs-reshaping-eu-lisbon-strategy/article-183277>

EU Ministers launch debate on funding for climate change. EurActiv. 27 July 2009.

This critical debate, which will culminate at the highest level at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in December 2009, will likely spark controversy both between EU Member States and within national governments. In Germany, for example, an internal power struggle appears to be taking place between key ministries over the

governance of future climate funds. EU Environment and Energy Ministers meeting informally in July 2009 discussed an EU Presidency-EC draft document which calls for the immediate mobilisation of \$1-2 billion to fund climate adaptation in low-income, vulnerable countries. The report suggests that adaptation would be funded by Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the short term, and draw from a mixture of development aid and additional sources in the longer term. Critics of the proposal call for additional funding on top of existing ODA to be provided to meet climate goals. Last month, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown proposed a \$100 billion annual climate fund by 2020, capping the share of development aid at 10% of this total. Similarly, the Netherlands and Denmark support the idea that climate funding should not be part of the existing 0.7% ODA commitments.

EurActiv

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-change/eu-mulls-climate-billions-developing-countries/article-184407>

See also EU Presidency link:

http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/7/24/informal_meeting_of_environment_ministers

International external assistance

Let's face it: it's over. The MDGs will not be met. William Easterly's Aid Watch Blog. 2 July 2009.

The MDGs will go down in history as a success in global consciousness-raising, but a failure in using that consciousness for its stated objectives. What a tragedy for all of those who contributed such effort and enthusiasm to the MDG campaign. And a much larger tragedy for the world's poor. Why waste any more effort on the MDGs, now that we know they will not be met? The next effort should get the WHO/WHY/WHAT clear. Here's one suggestion for starters: the WHO is aid agencies, the WHY principle is that they are responsible for these funds entrusted to them to reach the poor, the WHAT is transparency on whether the funds did reach the poor. It is unjust that funds intended for the poorest of the poor wind up enriching somebody else not poor. Let's have a movement protesting THAT injustice.

http://blogs.nyu.edu/fas/dri/aidwatch/2009/07/placeholder_for_blog_on_mdgs.html

Measuring Aid Costs: What Has Been Learnt and What Still Needs to be Leant? Capacity4Dev. 24 July 2009.

This short article explores recipient perceptions of aid transaction costs. The authors conclude that recipient governments find a lack of fit between donor approaches and their own more burdensome than the administration costs of dealing with multiple donors. 'Donor driven priorities and systems' and 'difficulties with donor procedures' were repeatedly perceived as the main problems by government respondents. The former refers to a poor fit between donors' activities and national priorities and systems, donors' poor understanding of the local context and their tendency to set up parallel management units. The latter phrase refers to restrictions in procurement (particularly tying), inappropriate technical assistance (TA) and the problem of donors' frequently changing staff, systems and policies. The authors note that donors' procedures in relation to TA and procurement can reduce ownership.

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/measuring-aid-costs-what-has-been-learnt-and-what-still-needs-be-leant>

EU external assistance

A better process for a better budget. Bruegel. 28 July 2009.

This policy brief provides a practical solution to facilitate reform of the EU budget decision-making process, overcome the detachment of EU spending from political priorities and increase focus on EU public goods. As the next financial framework is expected to start in less than two years, the window of opportunity for reform is closing

rapidly. Additional pressure arises from the need to design a substitute, by Spring 2010, for the Lisbon Strategy that better aligns EU policy goals and spending. For the authors now is the time for reform.

<http://www.bruegel.org/nc/publications/show/publication/a-better-process-for-a-better-budget.html>

Trying to sort out the EU's finances. European Voice. 25 July 2009.

The European Commission should present detailed legislative proposals "in the early autumn". EU leaders will take stock of progress at their summit in October. Sweden will also try to make headway on reforms to strengthen financial regulation, including on draft legislation to set capital requirements and reporting obligations for hedge funds.

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/trying-to-sort-out-the-eus-finances/65300.aspx>

International development and aid effectiveness

UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown says first opportunity exists to fundamentally change the world and create a global society supported by global institutions. Speech to TED Annual Conference. 21 July 2009.

"I think what's new is that we now have the capacity to communicate instantaneously across frontiers right across the world. We now have the capacity to find common ground with people we will never meet but who we will meet through the Internet and through all the modern means of communication, that we now have the capacity to organise and take collective action together to deal with the problem or an injustice that we want to deal with, and I believe that this makes this a unique age in human history, and it is the start of what I would call the creation of a truly global society."

http://www.ted.com/talks/gordon_brown.html

EU development effectiveness

The European Journal of Development Research. July 2009.

<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/ejdr/journal/v21/n3/index.html>

Meeting of the Joint Cooperation Council between the European Union and the Republic of South Africa. Conclusions. 23 July 2009.

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/er/109308.pdf

Annual report 2009 on the European Community's development and external assistance policies. EU. 10 July 2009.

This annual report shows that the European Union continues to be the world's leading development aid donor, accounting for 60% of world aid in 2008. The Commission alone committed EUR 12 billion, more than a fifth of the EU total. At the same time the quality and effectiveness of aid are improving, as are transparency and the monitoring of results.

[http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1115&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

[reference=IP/09/1115&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1115&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

The Reform of Technical Cooperation: Taming the Beast? Capacity4Dev. 15 July 2009.

When taking stock of the progress of the TC reform, some delegation staff complain that the reform imposes a heavy burden of new reporting obligations with little value added in terms of improving the quality of TC operations. Indeed it would be ironic if a reform that encourages greater engagement with partners, and actively

promotes partner ownership, kept those on the frontline busy serving headquarters instead. Although many seem to believe that the reform is mostly common sense, they also argue that it fails to bring fresh ideas to the table. This in turn only strengthens the argument of pessimists, who dismiss the reform as not much more than another bureaucratic hassle in an organisation already struggling with an ample dose of paperwork. For two reasons, however, it is too early and too easy to park the reform and continue with business as usual.

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/reform-technical-cooperation-taming-beast>

Financing for development

Only local business can end global poverty. FT. 23 July 2009.

Glenn Hubbard, a former chairman of the US Council of Economic Advisers, and dean of Columbia Business School, argues that the UN continues to fund government and non-governmental organisations to run economic development projects. But that is not how to end poverty: only the local business sector does that. The UN is right, of course, to target the dire poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. But it needs to take a different course. We need policies that make a difference to the software of prosperity – the rules, policies and institutions that govern how business operates in each country, and the mechanisms of aid funding that either help or hurt that local business sector.

www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bab6abdc-77bd-11de-9713-00144feabdc0.html

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

Study on the Mapping of Donor Coordination (Humanitarian Aid) at the Field Level. European Commission. Revised final report. July 2009.

http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/euforichighlights/~3/KOVcZL3Ta_I/Donor_coordination.pdf

CONCORD is presenting an alternative PCD Report. 24 June 2009.

Since Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) was made a policy making priority by the Council in 2005, the European Commission has put in place an ambitious framework for promoting the better fine-tuning of its policies with respect to their impact on developing countries. The second EU PCD report, assessing progress made since 2005 in both the EU institutions and the Member States, is due in 2009. CONCORD, the European confederation of relief and development NGOs and long-standing strategic partner of the EU Coherence Programme, has decided to produce an alternative PCD Report. One that puts a different kind of policy coherence in the spotlight, and that features a definition of development that is quite different from the European Commission's – a definition based on human rights, equality and ownership in developing countries. The Spotlight report will highlight the real impact of European policies on real people in developing countries.

<http://www.eucoherence.org/renderer.do/clearState/false/menuId/313375/returnPage/227304/itemId/599021/instanceId/313389/pageId/313375/>

Migration and development

Migrant workers to the rescue?| European Voice. 16 July 2009.

The EU's working-age population is getting smaller and migrant workers are needed to fill the gap. All the evidence shows that the EU labour force is declining and that drastic measures are needed to prevent a detrimental impact on Europe's economy.

www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/migrant-workers-to-the-rescue-/65525.aspx

Climate change and development

Upcoming Event

European Parliament Development Committee meeting. Brussels. 2-3 September 2009.

At the first proper meeting of the new term, the European Parliament's Development Committee will be discussing next year's EU budget and how climate change affects developing countries, along with an expert from Oxfam.

They will also focus on how the financial crisis has hit poor nations. Also, views will be exchanged with the Swedish minister for development cooperation Gunilla Carlsson, for the new presidency, and hold a meeting with the new EC Development Commissioner, Karel De Gucht.

www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?body=DEVE&language=EN

The consequences of climate change for poor farmers in Africa. IFPRI. July 2009.

Two new IFPRI research papers focus on the consequences of climate change for poor farmers in Africa and provide policymakers with adaptation strategies.

<http://farastaff.blogspot.com/2009/07/consequences-of-climate-change-for-poor.html>

EU Council Conclusions on integrating environment in development cooperation. 25 June 2009.

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/108745.pdf

EU Ministers meeting. Results. 25 June 2009.

EU Ministers adopt conclusions on European climate change strategy, extend mission for security sector reform to the DRC and on integrating environment in development cooperation.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/NewsRoom/loadDocument.aspx?id=356&lang=EN&directory=en/envir/&fileName=108792.pdf>

Global Perspectives on the Long March to Copenhagen. 24 June 2009.

Shortly after the Bonn Climate Talks the new issue of 'Global Perspectives' focuses on the outcomes of this latest session towards a Post-2012 Agreement on Climate Change. According to observers, the negotiations are still far from the expected outcomes. While official delegates declared that progress was made during the Bonn meeting, NGOs and the majority of developing countries disapprove such claims. According to them the USA are blocking any progress especially regarding the emission reduction targets. At the same time European Union governments' commitments remain unimpressive.

http://www.global-perspectives.info/download/2009/pdf/Long_March_To_Copenhagen_June_2009.pdf

EurActive provides great analysis and background for the current Reviews of EU Sustainable Development and Lisbon strategies. 28 July 2009.

See also EuroActiv page on the current review of EU's overarching strategy for growth and jobs, known as the Lisbon Strategy. ' <http://euractiv.com/en/opinion/growth-jobs-reshaping-eu-lisbon-strategy/article-183277>

<http://euractiv.com/en/opinion/eu-launches-reflection-future-green-policies/article-184400>

European Commission starts work to set out its five year strategic objectives and budget. EC Communication. 24 July 2009.

"Mainstreaming sustainable development into EU policies: 2009 Review of the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development" launches a reflection on how the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) should evolve in the future and how it could be better aligned with other cross-cutting EU strategies. The EC particularly stresses the need to find greater synergy with the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, which will be reviewed in

2010. The progress report will now be handed to EU leaders, who are expected to review priorities and provide orientation for the future strategy later this year. In parallel, the EU is starting to reflect on revising its 2000 Lisbon Strategy. 'Green growth' and environmental sustainability are likely to feature high among the strategy's new priorities. The process continues through the EU legislative procedure up to the EU summit in March 2010 which will adopt main policy orientations for Lisbon post-2010.

http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/docs/com_2009_400_en.pdf

Climate funding to low-income, vulnerable countries discussed at informal meeting of EU Environment Ministers. Swedish EU Presidency web page. 24-25 July 2009.

EU Environment and Energy Ministers meeting informally on 24-25 July 2009 discussed an EU Presidency-EC draft document which calls for the immediate mobilisation of \$1-2 billion to fund climate adaptation in low-income, vulnerable countries.

www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/7/24/informal_meeting_of_environment_ministers

EU Member States economic stimulus plans have not been green enough EC says. European Voice. 25 July 2009.

EC report says member states have missed opportunities to improve the environment and boost their economies at the same time, according to an assessment of their economic stimulus plans by the European Commission. Senior Commission officials have expressed concern that the EU is lagging behind its commercial rivals. Last month Karl Falkenberg, the director-general of the Commission's environment department (whose officials carried out the study), said that: "Europe could have done better so far...competitors are more vigorously using the crisis to spend on strengthening the environment."

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/2009/07/economic-stimulus-plans-have-not-been-green-enough/65617.aspx>

First steps to bring Saharan solar to Europe. Europe's solution to energy needs or energy colonialism? EurActiv.com. 22 July 2009.

The world's largest solar power project signed off by investors last week to produce electricity for Europe in the Sahara. But critics described the deal as no more than a new and expensive form of energy colonialism. The idea behind the Desertec project is to enhance Europe's energy security, while contributing to the EU's climate goals by reducing CO2 emissions. Scientists say that covering 3% of the surface of the Sahara with solar power plants would generate enough energy to meet the needs of the entire world and could produce more than half of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa's electricity needs within 40 years. Desertec has been slated as modern-day eco-colonialism, whereby Europeans outsource their energy needs to poor African countries, leaving little else but pollution behind. The project's backers, however, cite the creation of local jobs and export earnings as well as inexpensive electricity and the use of extra energy to desalinate sea water.

www.euractiv.com/en/energy/steps-bring-saharan-solar-europe/article-184274

Food security / agriculture

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme: Policymakers, Researchers, Join Hands with NEPAD to Spur Agricultural Growth in Togo. 29-30 July 2009.

Opening statement (in French) by Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD Secretary General to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme's Round Table meeting in Togo . 29-30 July 2009.

www.nepad.org/News/sector_id/6/lang/en/news/16

See also: <http://www.nepad-caadp.net/> And see also: http://www.nepad.org/News/sector_id/6/lang/en/news/7

The consequences of climate change for poor farmers in Africa. IFPRI. July 2009.

Two new IFPRI research papers focus on the consequences of climate change for poor farmers in Africa and provide policymakers with adaptation strategies.

<http://farastaff.blogspot.com/2009/07/consequences-of-climate-change-for-poor.html>

Farming First believes a new agricultural model is needed that places the world's 900 million smallholder farmers at the centre. European Voice. 23 July 2009.

Farming First Coalition and Presidents of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers and World Federation of Engineering Organisations write in European Voice that the Farming First coalition welcomes the G8 leaders' \$20 billion (€14bn) commitment as a crucial step forward and applauds their recognition that agricultural policies need reform in an integrated and systematic way. Measures could help transform subsistence farmers into small-scale entrepreneurs. Governments and development institutions should work closely with all farming stakeholders. Moreover, the G8 should invest in farmers' organisations directly, enabling them to deliver services to farmers down to the grassroots level. Productivity is often ten times higher in the developed world than in developing countries. That gap must be closed – and, for that, a concerted, collaborative and comprehensive response is needed.

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/sowing-the-seeds-of-major-agricultural-reform/65580.aspx>

EU agrees steps to help dairy prices. EurActiv.com. 24 July 2009.

The European Union agreed steps to help stabilise falling dairy prices, scrapping the minimum price for cheese to qualify for export subsidies and extending purchases of butter and milk powder. See also:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/cap/eu-investigate-dairy-sector-profits/article-184308>

www.euractiv.com/en/cap/eu-agrees-steps-help-dairy-prices/article-184353

International Relations

EU institutional change

Upcoming Events

European Parliament Development Committee meeting. Brussels. 2-3 September 2009.

At the first proper meeting of the new term, the European Parliament's Development Committee will be discussing next year's EU budget and how climate change affects developing countries, along with an expert from Oxfam. They will also focus on how the financial crisis has hit poor nations. Also, views will be exchanged with the Swedish minister for development cooperation Gunilla Carlsson, for the new presidency, and hold a meeting with the new EC Development Commissioner, Karel De Gucht.

www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?body=DEVE&language=EN

Swedish EU Presidency-provisional agendas for Council meetings prepared by Coreper (Part 1). July-December 2009.

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/fc/108911.pdf

Swedish EU Presidency-provisional agendas for Council meetings prepared by Coreper (Part 2). July-December 2009.

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/fc/108912.pdf

The role of development under the Lisbon Treaty, a report of the CSO-EU governments meeting and study to capitalise on capacity building support programmes for Non-State Actors (NSAs) under the 9th European Development Fund.

Articles in CONCORD News Flash. June 2009.

http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/internetdocumentsENG/4_Publications/1_CONCORD_Flash/Flash2009/June-draftFINAL.pdf

Baroness Vadera likely to be appointed by UK to European Commission. Times Online. 29 July 2009.

Gordon Brown is considering handing Baroness Vadera — one of his most forceful supporters — Britain's place on the next European Commission.

www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6597988.ece

Leaving the big beasts with too much power is dangerous. European Voice. 25 July 2009.

www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/leaving-the-big-beasts-with-too-much-powe...

EU Member States/Council. The major decisions at the European Council were taken by a small number of powerful nations, raising questions about legitimacy. The Swedish presidency will be the last chance to see if the rotating chairmanship of the EU can still function effectively to prevent the dominance of the powerful at the expense of the weak. Then, providing the Lisbon treaty is ratified, the duty of seeking balance will pass to a full-time president of the European Council. Judged on results, the EU is still able to make tough decisions affecting national interests, even while accommodating 27 leaders around the Council table. But unchecked dominance by a powerful minority risks generating resentment, and ultimately a loss of political legitimacy.

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/leaving-the-big-beasts-with-too-much-power-is-dangerous/65291.aspx>

EurActive provides great analysis and background for the current Reviews of EU Sustainable Development and Lisbon strategies. 28 July 2009.

<http://euractiv.com/en/opinion/eu-launches-reflection-future-green-policies/article-184400>

See also EuroActiv page on the current review of EU's overarching strategy for growth and jobs, known as the Lisbon Strategy. ' <http://euractiv.com/en/opinion/growth-jobs-reshaping-eu-lisbon-strategy/article-183277>

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

8th issue of the ESDP (European security and defence policy) newsletter. EU Council. 17 July 2009.

The 8th issue of the ESDP (European security and defence policy) newsletter is out. Among the features in this issue: counter piracy in the Gulf of Aden, Afghanistan, the handover of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA to the UN mission ... The cover story takes us to the EU NAVFOR-Atalanta, the EU's first naval operation. The newsletter also focuses on the EU satellite center, which offers a "bird's eye view" on ESDP operations and a leading figure of the last European Parliament legislature, Karl von Wogau, takes stock of the development of ESDP from his perspective. In the autumn, the next issue of the ESDP newsletter will be a special one. ESDP is 10 years old!

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/esdp/109269.pdf

Making the Difference: Strengthening capacities to respond to crises and security threats. Summary of Recommendations from the panels of the Conference. European Commission. Brussels. 3-4 June 2009.

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/ifs/events/recommendations_en.pdf

EU High Representative highlights the 6 lessons key to the development of a strong European Security and Defence Policy for the future. 28 July 2009.

Remarks by EU HR Javier SOLANA at the "ESDP@10: What lessons for the future?" conference. Brussels. 28 July 2009.

Lesson 1: The strength of ESDP derives from its consensual basis, which lends it moral and legal legitimacy. Lesson 2: Nothing can be achieved without the means to do the job. Lesson 3: The comprehensive approach underpinning ESDP is its value added. Lesson 4: Our ESDP actions have to be firmly anchored in political strategies. Lesson 5: Partnerships become more and more important every day. Lesson 6: Adaptability is a key strength.

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/esdp/109456.pdf

EU Ministers meeting. Results. 25 June 2009.

EU Ministers adopt conclusions on European climate change strategy, extend mission for security sector reform to the DRC and on integrating environment in development cooperation.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/NewsRoom/loadDocument.aspx?id=356&lang=EN&directory=en/envir/&fileName=108792.pdf>

Open letter signed by former Eastern European leaders urges U.S. President to strengthen the U.S. relationship with the countries of Eastern and Central Europe. Russia Blog. 17 July 2009.

Fresh from a widely anticipated foreign visit designed to "reset" relations with Moscow, U.S. President Barack Obama was welcomed on 16 July 2009 with a letter from former Eastern European leaders saying there is "nervousness in our capitals" with regard to a potentially redefined U.S.-Russia relationship. We want to ensure that too narrow an understanding of Western interests does not lead to the wrong concessions to Russia. ... The danger is that Russia's creeping intimidation and influence-peddling in the region could over time lead to a de facto neutralization of the region. Explicit concerns about Russia stand out in the letter, although the signatories (which include Poland's Lech Walesa and the Czech Republic's Vaclav Havel) also write of other areas of concern such as weakened European Union-U.S. relations.

www.russiablog.org/2009/07/forget_me_not_obamas_russian_r.php

EU to take new steps on Somalia. European Voice. 23 July 2009.

EU foreign ministers are likely on Monday (27 July) to back the appointment of an EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the Horn of Africa and to support the despatch of a mission to Somalia to prepare an aid and development package for the country. However, they are also expected to delay until the autumn a decision on providing military support to Somalia's fledgling security forces.

www.europeanvoice.com/CWS/Index.aspx?PageID=206&articleID=65566

Conflict, peace-building, security and development (for all non-CFSP related items)**Upcoming Event****The Crisis Group Global Briefing. International Crisis group. Brussels. 22-23 October 2009.**

The International Crisis Group (Crisis Group) is pleased to announce its first-ever Global Briefing: a two-day, high-level event led by Crisis Group's senior staff, examining urgent issues and solutions concerning major conflict flashpoints across the globe. The briefing offers the opportunity to hear from and interact with over twenty of Crisis Group's top experts, assembled at this single event focused on the prevention and resolution of deadly conflicts.

www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6191&l=1

The Legality of Intervention by the African Standby Force in Grave Circumstances. ISS Today. 24 June 2009.

As the African Standby Force (ASF), one of the components of the new African Peace and Security Architecture, approaches its operational readiness by 2010, questions are now emerging about the legal obligations of the African Union (AU) in using the ASF."

http://www.issafrica.org/index.php?link_id=5&slink_id=7813&link_type=12&slink_type=12&tmpl_id=3

Natural Resources Boom a Blessing or a Curse to African Integration? ISS Today. 24 July 2009.

Is an abundance of natural resources a blessing or a curse to African integration? Why would an African country accept full integration if it means losing control, ownership and access in relation to its natural resources. The weakest link so far in the discourse on African integration has been how to make integration attractive to politicians. Despite its normative imperative, pan-Africanism is of little value to the political calculations of most African leaders. As a result, the debate on African integration needs to address the question of political security.

http://www.issafrica.org/index.php?link_id=5&slink_id=7895&link_type=12&slink_type=12&tmpl_id=3

Making the Difference: Strengthening capacities to respond to crises and security threats. Summary of Recommendations from the panels of the Conference. European Commission. Brussels. 3-4 June 2009.

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/ifs/events/recommendations_en.pdf

African security threats and responses – looking forward to 2030. europafrica. 29 July 2009.

In this forward looking seminar a stocktaking of existing African responses to peace and security challenges on the continent was placed against existing and possible future threats. Issues such as the resurgence of coups, the impact of drugs trafficking on West African states, piracy, demographic changes, post-conflict reconstruction, the prospects and challenges of regional integration and state fragility in the face of the financial crisis were all discussed in depth. A draft paper written by Eleonora Koeb, Andrew Sherriff and Henrike Hohmeister of ECDPM laid out the nature and consequences for European Union support of African Peace and Security Architecture looking forward to 2030. The EU through the Africa Peace Facility and other instruments is the largest financial backer of African Peace and Security Architecture. The challenge of peace and security on the African continent requires both a short-term response but also a long-term vision and genuine partnership.

<http://europafrica.net/2009/07/29/african-security-threats-and-responses-%e2%80%93-looking-forward-to-2030/>

War, Guns and Votes: what to make of Paul Collier's latest book? From Poverty to Power by Duncan Green. 25 June 2009.

War, Guns and Votes builds on the strongest section of Collier's best selling 'Bottom Billion' – his investigation of the 'conflict trap' that afflicts a disproportionate number of the poorest counties, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa (Collier's real passion). The book is in equal measure hugely stimulating and deeply exasperating. Stimulating because he is an original thinker and a brilliant communicator, as well as a policy entrepreneur who always tries to get back to the 'so what' on any issue. He defies easy left/right pigeon-holing – he is a free trader, yet admires Julius Nyerere (if not his economic policies) and is a fan of UN peacekeeping.

www.oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/?p=326

Failed States Index 2009. Foreign Policy. July 2009.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/06/22/2009_failed_states_index_interactive_map_and_rankings

The Legality of Intervention by the African Standby Force in Grave Circumstances. ISS Today. 24 June 2009.

As the African Standby Force (ASF), one of the components of the new African Peace and Security Architecture, approaches its operational readiness by 2010, questions are now emerging about the legal obligations of the African Union (AU) in using the ASF."

http://www.issafrica.org/index.php?link_id=5&slink_id=7813&link_type=12&slink_type=12&tmpl_id=3

The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague has come up with a compromise position which could help avert a new war in Sudan. FT. 23 July 2009.

Its ruling divides up the oil-rich region of Abyei, giving control of significant oil reserves to the Khartoum government in the north. But it still places large fertile areas and some oil within a province that will have the choice of joining the semi-autonomous south. The court was charged with drawing the boundaries after fighting in the area came close to unravelling a 2005 peace agreement, which ended more than 20 years of civil war. The agreement gave the south autonomy, a share of oil wealth, and the promise of a referendum on independence in 2011. In a rare moment of co-operation both sides have welcomed the ruling. International mediators must build on this opportunity to advance other areas of the fragile peace agreement before it is too late. The west has often responded to Khartoum's intransigence with sticks. A more pragmatic approach can also have its ends.

www.ft.com/cms/s/0/77ff721a-77b8-11de-9713-00144feabdc0.html?nclick_check=1

See also: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200907240885.html> and <http://allafrica.com/stories/200907260002.html>

EU enlargement / neighbourhood policy

Poland and Lithuania nominate new commissioners. European Voice. June 2009.

It is unlikely the two nominees would have to appear before the relevant committees until after the summer, as the composition of committees will not be completed until the week of 14 July or later. The Parliament may prefer to wait until the other members of the new Commission are nominated at the end of October and hold all the hearings together at the start of November.

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/2009/06/poland-and-lithuania-nominate-new-commissioners/65342.aspx>

Political dialogue – ACP-EU

Joint Africa-EU Strategy

African security threats and responses – looking forward to 2030. europafrika. 29 July 2009.

In this forward looking seminar a stocktaking of existing African responses to peace and security challenges on the continent was placed against existing and possible future threats. Issues such as the resurgence of coups, the impact of drugs trafficking on West African states, piracy, demographic changes, post-conflict reconstruction, the prospects and challenges of regional integration and state fragility in the face of the financial crisis were all discussed in depth. A draft paper written by Eleonora Koeb, Andrew Sherriff and Henrike Hohmeister of ECDPM laid out the nature and consequences for European Union support of African Peace and Security Architecture looking forward to 2030. The EU through the Africa Peace Facility and other instruments is the largest financial backer of African Peace and Security Architecture. The challenge of peace and security on the African continent requires both a short-term response but also a long-term vision and genuine partnership.

<http://europafrika.net/2009/07/29/african-security-threats-and-responses-%e2%80%93-looking-forward-to-2030/>

The Pan-African Media Observatory: Views from media freedom advocates. europafrika. 23 July 2009.

Thirty two International Freedom of Exchange (IFEX) members and partners working on free expression in Africa joined forces to make a common submission in response to the "joint roadmap" proposed by the AUC and the EC this year is to create a Pan-African Media Observatory.

<http://europafrika.net/2009/07/23/the-pan-african-media-observatory-views-from-media-freedom-advocates/>

African Union / NEPAD**AU Reiterates Commitment to the ICC. 30 June 2009.**

There is no doubt that international criminal justice as it relates to the International Criminal Court (ICC) has taken center stage within the media and at various forums in the last year. This is so especially following the issuing of the warrant of arrest for President Al Bashir of Sudan. The warrant of arrest was not received well in many quarters including some African leaders and commentators. The Al Bashir arrest warrant seen within the broader context of the ICC's work in Africa has led some to conclude that the ICC is 'targeting Africans for political reasons'. The upcoming review conference to be held in Uganda is an important opportunity for member states to provide input to the statute and the ICC as a whole and to address some of their concerns. Civil society can also support various initiatives at the national and regional level in preparation for this review conference.

http://www.issafrika.org/index.php?link_id=5&slink_id=7843&link_type=12&slink_type=12&tmpl_id=3

AU's Decision Discourages ICC Supporters. ISS. 14 July 2009

The outcome of the recent African Union (AU) Summit held in Sirte, Libya on 1-3 July 2009, under the chairmanship of President Muammar Gadaffi, came as a surprise for analysts and those who have been following the debate around the AU's position towards the International Criminal Court (ICC). The recent Ministerial meeting of African States Parties to the Rome Statute held in Addis Ababa on 8-9 June 2009 presented recommendations that projected clear support for the ICC and for ending impunity. Only a few weeks later, the July AU Summit produced a position that has been interpreted as an about-turn on the initial support for the ICC.

http://www.issafrika.org/index.php?link_id=5&slink_id=7866&link_type=12&slink_type=12&tmpl_id=3

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme: Policymakers, Researchers, Join Hands with NEPAD to Spur Agricultural Growth in Togo. 29-30 July 2009.

Opening statement (in French) by Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD Secretary General to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme's Round Table meeting in Togo . 29-30 July 2009. See also:

<http://www.nepad-caadp.net/> And see also: http://www.nepad.org/News/sector_id/6/lang/en/news/7
www.nepad.org/News/sector_id/6/lang/en/news/16

Decisions and Declarations from the 13th African Union Summit. 1-3 July 2009. europafrika.

The African Union has released official documents containing the decisions and declarations made during the 13th session of the Assembly of the African Union on 1-3 July 2009 and the decisions made during the 15th session of the AU Executive Council on 24-30 June 2009 in Sirte, Libya.

<http://europafrika.net/2009/07/21/decisions-and-declarations-from-the-13th-african-union-summit/>

US Secretary of State Clinton to tour Africa. BBC. 28 July 2009

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is to tour seven African countries, starting on 5 August. The visit is to highlight President Barack Obama's commitment to making Africa a US foreign policy priority. While in Africa, Mrs

Clinton is set to speak at the Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (AGOA) in Kenya. Mrs Clinton will also visit South Africa, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Liberia, and Cape Verde.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8172274.stm>

Economic and Trade Cooperation

This week's feature story

EPA Negotiations Coordination Meeting. Gaborone, Botswana. Aide memoire. 22-23 July 2009.

The main objectives of the workshop were to bring together the chief advisers and negotiators to compare the concessions their negotiating groups have obtained during the negotiations for full EPAs as well as on the resolution of the contentious issues. The ultimate objective of the exercise is to enhance information exchange and expand the room for manoeuvre for African negotiators. The meeting aims also at strengthening co-ordination among key policymakers and stakeholders, including the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Union Commission, and African Trade Ministers. ECDPM's Dan Lui participated in this meeting.

<http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/2009/july/ti/EPA/EPA%20coordination%20meting%20aide%20memoire%20final.pdf>

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) negotiations

Regional Updates

Southern African Development Community

Meeting of the Joint Cooperation Council between the European Union and the Republic of South Africa. Conclusions. 23 July 2009.

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/er/109308.pdf

Namibia: Civil society supports EPA stand. 10 July 2009.

Civil society is rallying behind Government in its decision to take on the European Commission, lobbying for support not to sign the interim economic partnership agreement until the EC puts agreed trade concessions on infant industry protection, food security, export taxes and free goods flow in writing.

www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id_article=15531

West Africa

EU-West Africa Economic Partnership Agreement negotiators progress, outstanding issues remain. Dakar. EC press release. EC press release. 27 July 2009.

Participants in the technical and senior officials' meetings from 16-23 July 2009. followed up on the Ministerial meeting which took place in Brussels in June. On that occasion, it was agreed that a regional deal on trade in goods, development cooperation and other trade-related rules will be concluded by the end of October 2009. In Dakar, negotiators made good progress on a number of areas including the EPA Development Programme (PAPED) and rules of origin. Negotiations continue on issues such as market access, regional levies and the Most

Favoured Nation clause as well as development co-operation. Next round of technical negotiations is scheduled for 21 September 2009.

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/regneg_en.htm

Ghana to endorse EPA in October. Bilaterals. org. 21 July 2009.

Trade and Industry Minister Hannah Tetteh says Ghana will trade only in goods under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) – contrary to suggestions the country would also be trading in services.

www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id_article=15593

Accord de partenariat économique CEDEAO-UE : Les négociations piétinent gravement. allAfrica. 1 July 2009.

Dans une communication fort enrichissante, le directeur du Commerce extérieur du Sénégal, Dr. Cheikh Saadbouh Seck, a indiqué que les négociations achoppent sur plusieurs points.

www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id_article=15478

Eastern and Southern Africa

ESA to sign EPA on 29 August. Upcoming Events in Eastern and Southern Africa region. e-COMESA Newsletter. 24 July 2009.

-5-6 August 2009. The International Trade Centre and COMESA Secretariat will hold a two day Access! For African Businesswomen in International Trade event at the COMESA Secretariat in Lusaka.

-27-28 August 2009. ESA Business Forum (Funded by Tradecom). Mauritius

-28 August 2009. ESA-EC Senior Officials negotiations. Mauritius

-29 August 2009. ESA-EC Ministerial meeting and Official signing ceremony of the EC-ESA Interim EPA Senior Officials negotiations , Mauritius

http://about.comesa.int/attachments/080_e-comesa_newsletter_211.pdf

Calls for Namibia not to sign interim-EPA hold merit, says analyst. Bilaterals. org. 27 July 2009.

A number of Namibian civil society organisations, as well as the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, have supported the government's decision not to sign the interim Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union, amid concerns that it caused discord among Southern African Customs Union member States.

www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id_article=15623

Aid for Trade / EPA development support

Upcoming Event

Africa and Europe: On the road to new win-win partnerships. The EU-Africa Business Forum. Nairobi. 28-29 September 2009.

The 2-day forum, which will be hosted by Mr Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of Kenya, will bring together African and European business leaders representing multi-nationals, large corporations, small and medium-scale enterprises and confederations, multilateral and regional institutions. The Forum is supported by the European Commission and the African Union Commission.

<http://bizclim.ning.com/page/euafrica-business-forum>

Regional Updates

All-Africa

Venture Capital and Private Equity in Africa. Connecting investors and entrepreneurs.

An online community for investors and entrepreneurs. A platform dedicated to connecting African SME projects and businesses.

www.vc4africa.com/

Central Africa

EIB appoints new Head of East and Central Africa regional representation. 29 July 2009.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has appointed Kurt Simonsen as its new head of the east and central Africa regional representation, based in Nairobi. Mr Simonsen took up his duties locally on 1 July 2009.

<http://www.eib.org/about/news/eib-appoints-new-head-of-east-and-central-africa-regional-representation.htm>

East Africa

The first undersea cables to bring high-speed internet access to East Africa has gone live and could revolutionise communications. SEACOM. 23 July 2009.

The fibre-optic cable, operated by African-owned firm SEACOM (South Africa-East Africa- South Asia-Fiber Optic Cable), connects South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Mozambique to Europe and Asia. The firm says the cable will help to boost the prospects of the region's industry and commerce.

www.seacom.mu/index2.asp

The East African Business Council and EU TradeCom Facility agree to strengthen the role of the region's private sector in EPA negotiations. allAfrica. 20 July 2009.

Under the partnership, EABC will run a programme that will improve private sector awareness of the EAC-EU EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement) negotiations and also strengthen its participation in trade policy formulation. Charles Mbogori, Executive Director of EABC, says cooperation will further strengthen the regional capacity to engage the private sector on EPA negotiation issues. "EABC will increasingly play an instrumental role in private sector awareness, and in developing position papers and policy briefs that will feed into EPA negotiations," said Mr Mbogori. The programme will establish constructive public private sector dialogue that will inform government officials on the needs of the private sector.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907201264.html>

Other News

Only local business can end global poverty. FT. 23 July 2009.

Glenn Hubbard, a former chairman of the US Council of Economic Advisers, and dean of Columbia Business School, argues that the UN continues to fund government and non-governmental organisations to run economic development projects. But that is not how to end poverty: only the local business sector does that. The UN is right, of course, to target the dire poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. But it needs to take a different course. We need policies that make a difference to the software of prosperity – the rules, policies and institutions that govern how business operates in each country, and the mechanisms of aid funding that either help or hurt that local business sector.

www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bab6abdc-77bd-11de-9713-00144feabdc0.html

Monitoring EPA implementation

Caribbean leaders claim success at summit. BBC. 6 July 2009.

Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders appear convinced that they have put the integration movement back on track after a difficult few months. Critics feared that angry disputes over immigration and trade had threatened the very existence of the grouping. But leaders emerged from their just-concluded summit, proclaiming that their talks had been a success.

www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/news/story/2009/07/090706_caricomlead.shtml

Caribbean Heads of Government seem incapable of achieving a consensus on little more than the nature of the problems the region faces. David Jessop in the BBC. 29 June 2009.

The areas of divergence are legion. They range from the failure to progress Caricom's relationship with the Dominican Republic, through something close to warfare over the freedom of movement and migration, to the continuing absence of region-wide financial regulation. Are Caricom and its Heads of Government willing to abandon outdated or unworkable ideas, accept that there are new forces in play and that there may be alternative ways to approach the business of integration?

www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/news/story/2009/06/090626_jessop_view_europe.shtml

See also: http://www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/news/story/2009/06/090626_sanders_caricom.shtml and

http://www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/news/story/2009/06/090630_forumcaricom.shtml

Formulating sustainable development benchmarks for an EU-CARIFORUM EPA: Caribbean perspectives. June 2007.

The paper identified three broad categories of issues for identifying priorities for monitoring, and hence focusing benchmarks: 1. Market access and fair trade 2. Policy space or space for achieving sustainable development policies: Policies aimed at overcoming supply-side constraints and attaining competitiveness and productive sector development goals; Policies addressing social objectives and equity goals such as poverty alleviation and reducing gender inequalities; Trade policies aimed at selective import liberalization and strategic trade integration within various ACP regional groupings; 3. EU resources for development, particularly financial inflows to address: Costs of overcoming supply-side constraints; Institutional adjustment, technical assistance and capacity building.

www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library_detail.php?library_detail_id=3744

General economic and trade issues

European Commission publishes annual report on US trade and investment barriers. EC Press Release. 27 July 2009.

The European Commission has published its annual report on barriers to trade and investment in the United States. The report focuses on some key trade barriers and measures that prevent EU exporters from tapping into the full potential of the US market. It notes some continuing concerns and highlights a number of new barriers introduced in 2008. Only a small proportion of EU-US trade is affected by trade disputes, but raising and addressing these issues helps to boost confidence in the transatlantic marketplace and allows exporters to reap the full benefits available.

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/mk_access/pr270709_en.htm

EU agrees steps to help dairy prices. EurActiv.com. 24 July 2009.

The European Union agreed steps to help stabilise falling dairy prices, scrapping the minimum price for cheese to qualify for export subsidies and extending purchases of butter and milk powder.

www.euractiv.com/en/cap/eu-agrees-steps-help-dairy-prices/article-184353

See also: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/cap/eu-investigate-dairy-sector-profits/article-184308>

Critical Analysis of the UNCTAD LDC 2009 report. Third World Network Info Service on WTO and Trade Issues. 24 July 2009.

Neither the good governance institutional reforms which many LDCs are currently implementing, nor the old developmental State, including successful East Asian cases, are entirely appropriate models now for the LDCs. What is required now is a developmental State that is adapted to the challenges facing an interdependent world in the twenty-first century. Such a State should seek to harness local, bottom-up problem-solving energies through stakeholder involvement and citizen participation that creates and renews the micro-foundations of democratic practice. It should also embrace a wide range of development governance modalities and mechanisms within a mixed economy model to harness private enterprise, through public action, to achieve a national development vision. There is also a need for policy space to allow experimentation.

www.twinside.org.sg/title2/wto.info/2009/twninfo20090720.htm

Comparing safeguard measures in regional and bilateral agreements, including EPAs. ICTSD. 23 July 2009.

This study by Paul Kruger, Willemien Denner and JB Cronje provides trade negotiators, policy-makers and other stakeholders with a clear, practical comparative analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the various safeguard clauses included in bilateral and regional free trade agreements (FTAs). It groups together regional agreements on the basis of shared characteristics, examines the extent to which various safeguard clauses have been used in practice, and makes a number of recommendations that policy-makers and negotiators could take into consideration when negotiating safeguard clauses in trade agreements. The document is available for

download at: <http://ictsd.net/downloads/2009/07/safeguardweb.pdf>

<http://ictsd.net/i/publications/50564/>

The Least Developed Countries Report 2009. UNCTAD. 16 July 2009.

Improvements in the economic performance of LDCs will require effective industrial policy that includes public investment and strategic coordination of private actors. Simultaneous efforts to raise investment levels, build new economic links, and upgrade technological capacity - which is at the heart of industrial growth - are the surest ways of promoting diversification and economic growth in LDCs.

www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=11721&intItemID=2068&lang=1

EU Common Agricultural Policy not up for review according to EC Commissioner. European Voice. 14 July 2009.

European commissioner resists Franco-German calls to re-open discussion of agricultural reforms. Mariann Fischer Boel, the European commissioner for agriculture, yesterday insisted that attempts to support European farmers through the economic crisis must not undo reforms to the EU's farm policy agreed upon last year. Fischer Boel's statement was contained in a response to a letter sent by the French and German agriculture ministers calling for the EU to re-open the question of whether certain reforms to the dairy sector should continue in 2010 as planned, in the wake of falling demand for milk, cheese and other products.

www.europeanvoice.com/article/2009/07/cap-reforms-not-open-for-review/65485.aspx

NEW BOOK: L'Afrique et le droit à la différence dans les négociations commerciales. El Hadji Abdourahmane Diouf. July 2009.

L'idée centrale de cet ouvrage tourne autour de la possibilité d'aménager, à l'OMC, un régime juridique spécial aux pays africains, qui leur permette de faire face à leurs contraintes économiques intérieures, avant de se lancer dans une libéralisation intégrale. Cette exigence de flexibilités est aussi applicable aux Accords de Partenariat Economique en négociations entre les pays africains et l'Union européenne, ainsi que dans les processus d'intégration régionale sur le continent. L'ouvrage examine une étude de cas intéressante : l'Accord sur l'agriculture de l'OMC. L'une des conclusions majeures de l'auteur est que dans ce domaine, ce sont les pays développés qui disposent d'un traitement spécial et différencié. Le cas de l'Initiative sectorielle sur le coton que les pays africains ont défendu à l'OMC en est une parfaite illustration. Au total, le système commercial international ne présente pas encore de flexibilités suffisantes pour garantir une bonne intégration de l'Afrique.

<http://www.lgdj.fr/colloques-etudes-rapports/227617/afrique-droit-difference-negociations-commerciales>

Developing nations disillusioned by the global economic crisis may well turn their backs on the free market. Joseph Stiglitz in Vanity Fair. July 2009.

When the current crisis is over, the reputation of American-style capitalism will have taken a beating—not least because of the gap between what Washington practices and what it preaches. Disillusioned developing nations may well turn their backs on the free market, warns Nobel laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz, posing new threats to global stability and U.S. security. No crisis, especially one of this severity, recedes without leaving a legacy. And among this one's legacies will be a worldwide battle over ideas—over what kind of economic system is likely to deliver the greatest benefit to the most people. Nowhere is that battle raging more hotly than in the Third World, among the 80 percent of the world's population that lives in Asia, Latin America, and Africa, 1.4 billion of whom subsist on less than \$1.25 a day. In much of the world, the battle between capitalism and socialism still rages. This has consequences we'll be living with for a long time to come.

www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2009/07/third-world-debt200907

EU-Africa: the pointless struggle against the WTO. 'L'Afrique et le droit à la différence dans les négociations commerciales internationales: OMC, APE, Intégration régionale'. Medafrique. May 2009.

Rather than wasting all its energy on fighting the WTO and negotiations with the EU, Africa could benefit from greater integration, says El Hadji A. Diouf, a Geneva-based trade policy expert who believes we are witnessing the emergence of a new trade order - one which despite its complexities is less unjust and more balanced than previous unilateral relationships with former colonial powers, as he explains in his recently-published book, 'L'Afrique et le droit à la différence dans les négociations commerciales internationales: OMC, APE, Intégration régionale' (Africa and the right to be different in the context of international trade negotiations. The WTO, EPAs and regional integration). The crucial issue is how Africa can be moved back off the sidelines.

www.medafrique.info/news/show.php?id=1069

Governance

This week's feature story

Governance Assessments. Do We Need More of Them? Capacity4Dev. 14 July 2009.

Donors face strong incentives to undertake their own assessments of the governance situation in partner countries, with various objectives responding to different needs. While it remains unlikely that donors will develop a single, unifying assessment tool in the short-term, there is ample scope for greater cooperation to match tools and

purposes in more innovative ways. In a bid to enhance the effectiveness of governance assessments and generate greater harmony between donors, the OECD DAC has developed ways to improve the effectiveness of donors' assessment practices.

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/governance-assessments-do-we-need-more-them>

ACP governance initiatives

What next for Aid? Double or nothing or new conditionalities? Open Budgets. 21 July 2009.

What can create the domestic political will needed for the governance reforms that make Aid effective? Greater aid coordination? More emphasis on domestic accountability? What do you think?

<http://internationalbudget.wordpress.com/2009/07/21/what-next-for-aid-double-or-nothing-or-new-conditionalities/>

AU Reiterates Commitment to the ICC. 30 June 2009.

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http://www.issafrica.org/index.php?link_id=5&slink_id=7843&link_type=12&slink_type=12&tmpl_id=3

AU's Decision Discourages ICC Supporters. ISS. 14 July 2009

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Africa Still has the Opportunity to do Right. ISS. 20 July 2009.

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http://www.issafrica.org/index.php?link_id=5&slink_id=7885&link_type=12&slink_type=12&tmpl_id=3

Natural Resources Boom a Blessing or a Curse to African Integration? ISS Today. 24 July 2009.

Is an abundance of natural resources a blessing or a curse to African integration? Why would an African country accept full integration if it means losing control, ownership and access in relation to its natural resources. The weakest link so far in the discourse on African integration has been how to make integration attractive to

politicians. Despite its normative imperative, pan-Africanism is of little value to the political calculations of most African leaders. As a result, the debate on African integration needs to address the question of political security.
http://www.issafrica.org/index.php?link_id=5&slink_id=7895&link_type=12&slink_type=12&tmpl_id=3

The Quality of Democracy and Governance in Africa. A Compendium of Public Opinion Findings from 19 African Countries. Afrobarometer. May 2009.

This Afrobarometer (a perception-based tool collaboratively produced by social scientists from 20 African countries) compendium presents detailed statistical survey data from field surveys undertaken in nineteen countries in 2008 that summarise key public attitudes on the topic of citizen-state relations. Analysis is left to the work of other researchers utilizing this data. Data reveals where the general public is dissatisfied thus calling into question the suitability of existing policies and suggesting alternatives. However, in the realms of society, politics and the economy, perceptions matter just as much—if not more—than reality as a central motivation for behaviour. An individual's interior perspective forms the basis of any calculus for action. Consistent with our instinct that all people, whatever their material circumstances, are capable of acute observation and rational thought, we find that, more often than not, public opinion findings reinforce statistics.

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www.afrobarometer.org/papers/AfroBriefNo69_22may09_final.pdf

Governance and development partners

Improving Transparency, Integrity, and Accountability in Water Supply and Sanitation. World Bank.

More than 1 billion people around the world live without access to safe, potable water, in part because of poor governance and corruption. To raise awareness on issues such as embezzlement of funds, bribes for access to illegal water connections, manipulation of meter counters, and collusion in public contracts, the World Bank Institute, together with Transparency International, developed this book to provide a useful tool for diagnosing, analyzing, and remedying systemic corruption in the water supply and sanitation sectors. This books stems from the twin capacity building programs carried out by WBI and the World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) in Honduras and Nicaragua in September 2007.

http://www.waterintegritynetwork.net/redir/content/download/6343/123595/file/Butterworth%20et%20al_Improving%20Transparency.pdf

Governance Matters VIII: Aggregate and Individual Governance Indicators, 1996-2008. Brookings Institution/World Bank. 29 June 2009.

This paper, by Daniel Kaufmann, Aart Kraay and Massimo Mastruzzi, reports on the 2009 update of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) research project, covering 212 countries and territories and measuring six dimensions of governance between 1996 and 2008: Voice and Accountability, Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, and Control of Corruption. The data reflect the views on governance of public sector, private sector and NGO experts, as well as thousands of citizen and firm survey respondents worldwide. We also explicitly report the margins of error accompanying each country estimate. Even after taking margins of error into account, the WGI permit meaningful cross-country comparisons as well as monitoring progress over time.

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1424591

Governance: Global Integrity Report: 2009. Target countries for the upcoming years' assessments are announced. Global Integrity Commons. 29 June 2009.

The fieldwork for the Global Integrity Report: 2009 is underway. Over the past three annual cycles, Global Integrity Commons has observed that most countries' data stay relatively constant over a 12-month period. This reflects the reality that anti-corruption reforms can take decades before fully taking root. By allowing for a full year off between assessments, they expect that the Global Integrity Report will more usefully capture each country's progress.

These somewhat smaller biennial samples will also allow Global Integrity to shift resources towards scaling up its "Local Integrity Initiative" efforts in parallel to ongoing Global Integrity Report fieldwork.

<http://commons.globalintegrity.org/2009/06/global-integrity-report-2009-country.html>

Governance Assessments. Do We Need More of Them? Capacity4Dev. 14 July 2009.

Donors face strong incentives to undertake their own assessment of the governance situation in partner countries, with various objectives responding to different needs. The need for each donor to make their own country assessment, especially when other assessments already exist, can often be questioned. While it remains unlikely that donors will develop a single, unifying assessment tool in the short-term, there is ample scope for greater cooperation to match tools and purposes more cleverly. And there is only limited donor interest in investing in partner country capacities to diagnose governance challenges. In a bid to enhance the effectiveness of governance assessments and generate greater harmony between donors, the OECD DAC has developed ways to improve the effectiveness of donors' assessment practices.

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/governance-assessments-do-we-need-more-them>

Democratic Governance. Third Regional Workshop on Democratic Governance. EuropeAid. Capacity4Dev. 15 July 2009.

The regional workshops provide an occasion for colleagues working on democratic governance to meet and exchange experiences and ideas. This year, key topics included presentations and discussions on the findings and guidelines of donor driven governance assessments, the work by EuropeAid on how to assess and address governance in sector operations and recent work in the field of civil society and support to parliaments and the governance dimensions in the Cotonou Mid-Term Review as well as in the Joint Africa EU Strategy. The general feeling among participants was one of expanding governance agendas, with ever more sophisticated tools - but potential overload, as the pressure to demonstrate results and spend resources was hard to reconcile with the need for a) deepening country specific knowledge about various governance dimensions, and b) reorienting the work with key governance actors.

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/europeaid-third-regional-workshop-democratic-governance>

EU-Africa governance dialogue

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Civil society

EU Council conclusions with regard to special report from the Court of Auditors on the Commission's management of non-state actors' involvement in EC development cooperation. 27 July 2009.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/NewsRoom/loadDocument.aspx?id=349&lang=EN&directory=en/gena/&fileName=109387.pdf>

The role of development under the Lisbon Treaty, a report of the CSO-EU governments meeting and study to capitalise on capacity building support programmes for Non-State Actors (NSAs) under the 9th European Development Fund.

http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/internetdocumentsENG/4_Publications/1_CONCORD_Flash/Flash2009/June-draftFINAL.pdf

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<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/europeaid-third-regional-workshop-democratic-governance>

Decentralisation and local governance

Upcoming Event

New Impulses for Development Cooperation between Federal States, Regions and Local Authorities. 27-28 August 2009.

At this 2nd Bonn Conference on International Development Policy, decision-makers from sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and Germany will discuss the future role of sub-national development cooperation. What role can sub-national development cooperation play within the international development cooperation structure? That is a major question for this Bonn Conference. A further important topic is the question of how to bring sub-national development cooperation into line with the demands and challenges of the Paris Declaration.

www.bonn-conference.nrw.de/bonn-co_english/index.php

Knowledge Management and Communication

Capacity development

The Reform of Technical Cooperation: Taming the Beast? Capacity4Dev. 15 July 2009.

When taking stock of the progress of the TC reform, some delegation staff complain that the reform imposes a heavy burden of new reporting obligations with little value added in terms of improving the quality of TC operations. Indeed it would be ironic if a reform that encourages greater engagement with partners, and actively promotes partner ownership, kept those on the frontline busy serving headquarters instead. Although many seem to believe that the reform is mostly common sense, they also argue that it fails to bring fresh ideas to the table. This in turn only strengthens the argument of pessimists, who dismiss the reform as not much more than another bureaucratic hassle in an organisation already struggling with an ample dose of paperwork. For two reasons, however, it is too early and too easy to park the reform and continue with business as usual.

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/reform-technical-cooperation-taming-beast>

Knowledge management

Research for development

Monitoring, evaluation and learning in international cooperation

Millennium Challenge Corporation Launches Monitoring and Evaluation Portal. MCC. 20 July 2009.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) just launched a new part of their website that allows readers to browse their performance by country and sector. While data is not yet complete, it's clearly an effort to introduce more transparency into the aid sector.

www.mcc.gov/mcc/panda/activities/mande/index.shtml

Communication for development

EU Terminology for Dummies. A short guide for bloggers and journalists that write about EU affairs and are exposed to "Eurojargon". Kosmopolit. 25 July 2009.

Not only acronyms are an art form but also normal EU terminology can be tricky. Language plays an important role in constructing a certain image of the EU and journalists and bloggers should be aware of that. The correct use of terms is a necessity for understanding political processes in the EU and a basis for every interpretation of "the beast".

www.kosmopolito.org/eu-terminology-for-dummies/

The Pan-African Media Observatory: Views from media freedom advocates. europafrika. 23 July 2009.

Thirty two International Freedom of Exchange (IFEX) members and partners working on free expression in Africa joined forces to make a common submission in response to the "joint roadmap" proposed by the AUC and the EC this year is to create a Pan-African Media Observatory.

<http://europafrika.net/2009/07/23/the-pan-african-media-observatory-views-from-media-freedom-advocates/>

EU-AU Pan-African Media Observatory (PAMO) project rejected by African journalists. IPS. 27 July 2009.

The declaration, whose signatories included media organisations from across Africa as well some African journalists in exile, was made in a letter addressed to the spokesperson for information and communication at the African Union Commission and to the official in charge of the Information and Communication at the European Commission (EC) Directorate General for Development and relations with the ACP. The African journalists reject the project saying that its framework is founded on erroneous premises, ignores the reality of media repression by states, as well as previous milestones in the history of African journalism. They argue it is likely to crowd out existing independent initiatives in the region. Instead of creating a new body, the journalists affirm that the objective of ensuring media freedom, independence, pluralism and professionalism would be more likely achieved through clear recognition and a more conscientious implementation and enforcement of existing commitments.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47802>

Kenya: Students Invent Bicycle-Powered Phone Charger. allAfrica. 21 July.

Mobile phone owners, especially those in rural areas, may no longer need a regular power supply to charge the gadgets.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907211006.html>

UK Government advice urges tweeting. UK Foreign Office. 17 July 2009.

New government guidance has been published urging civil servants to use the micro-blogging site Twitter.

Launched on the Cabinet Office website, the 20-page document is calling on departments to "tweet" on "issues of relevance or upcoming events". The website is already used by Downing Street, the Foreign Office and many individual MPs.

<http://blogs.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/digitalengagement/>

UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown says first opportunity exists to fundamentally change the world and create a global society supported by global institutions. Speech to TED Annual Conference. 21 July 2009.

"I think what's new is that we now have the capacity to communicate instantaneously across frontiers right across the world. We now have the capacity to find common ground with people we will never meet but who we will meet through the Internet and through all the modern means of communication, that we now have the capacity to

organise and take collective action together to deal with the problem or an injustice that we want to deal with, and I believe that this makes this a unique age in human history, and it is the start of what I would call the creation of a truly global society.”

www.ted.com/talks/gordon_brown.html

How Nonprofits Can Use Social Media: Crowdsourcing Your Professional Learning With Social Media. Beth's Blog. 22 July 2009.

The transcript is here. and a post organising questions and providing some short answers in a follow up post. There were a number of questions related to tools and tactics.

http://beth.typepad.com/beths_blog/2009/07/crowdsourcing-your-professional-learning-with-social-media-an-example.html

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