

Weekly Compass

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New at ECDPM

Development Policy and International Relations

Whither EC Aid (WECA) Compendium. ECDPM and ActionAid International. September 2009.

We are pleased to inform you that the Whither EC Aid (WECA) Compendium is now on line and can be downloaded. It is the final stage of a joint ECDPM-Action Aid project initiated in mid-2007. In 2005, the Paris Declaration formulated a number of challenges facing development cooperation. While the principles of the Declaration were broadly accepted, there seemed to be a lack of shared understanding of key underlying issues shaping the debate of EU aid effectiveness. This publication archives all the outputs generated through WECA, from the Initial Discussion Note to the reports of the dozen roundtables held and the thematic Briefing Notes. A year after the adoption of the Accra Agenda for Action, it is interesting to look back on the perceptions of various group of stakeholders about the aid effectiveness agenda, and to see to what extent the different points of view shared during the WECA process find an echo today in the international agenda on aid. Hard copies can be obtained from Jacquie Dias (jd@ecdpm.org). Please send any comments and feedback to: weca-compendium@ecdpm.org. Click [here](#) to read more.

Economic and Trade Cooperation

The Interim Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and African States: Contents, challenges and prospects. ECDPM and ODI. July 2009.

To date, many (sometimes wild) claims about the likely development effects of EPAs have been speculative because the final details of the agreements were unknown. But now, following the conclusion of a full EPA with the CARIFORUM region and interim EPAs (IEPAs) with some African and Pacific states, it is possible for the first time to analyse what has actually been agreed and to assess the potential development effects. This book provides a comprehensive analysis of the African IEPAs as they stand in early 2009. It also establishes the negotiations that remain to be completed and the challenges facing Africa in implementation, some of which require support from Europe. It provides both a summary of the principle features of very complex documents and also the foundations for the many follow-up studies that will be needed to look in more detail at specific country, sectoral and other specific features of the IEPAs. Click [here](#) to read more.

The acp-eu-trade.org newsletter -- No. 31/July-August 2009

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Policy News

Development Policy and International Relations

Launch of the European Development Cooperation Support Programme. Overseas Development Institute. September 2009.

Internationally, the 'development' project faces unprecedented challenge, the result of a vicious interaction between the food, fuel and financial crises, with climate change assuming ever-greater urgency. In Europe, the European Union (EU) faces major change

No. 7, 4 September 2009

Dear,

I hope you had a wonderful break with your loved ones. I certainly did and am back re-energised for the rest of the year.

I'll keep it short here as I've spent all my time collecting the information included in this issue and in the Weekly Compass-Extended Version (make sure you're reading that every week! See the link below). So I'll let these speak for themselves.

Enjoy the reading.

Melissa
mj@ecdpm.org

Extended version in PDF

Find the extended version of this newsletter online

Off the track

Social networks are a double-edged sword. Pambazuka. 6 August 2009.

As social networking sites such as Facebook, Myspace and twitter make freedom of speech a reality across the world, Paul Mwangi Maina considers the potential impacts - both positive and negative - of social media tools and citizen journalism on participation in democracy in Africa and beyond. Click [here](#) to read more.

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and choices: the inauguration of a new European Parliament, which will be involved in shaping more and more policies; the appointment of the new European Commissioners with portfolios which may change; the potential ratification of the Lisbon Treaty in October; and the results of the fundamental budget review. The European Development Cooperation Support Programme is an Overseas Development Institute (ODI) initiative focusing on building an infrastructure of knowledge, contacts and information on EU development cooperation, in order to support the debate on EU institutional and policy change. The EU will be swept into a wave of reform touching on the institutions, the policies and the instruments of EU engagement in the world. The outcomes will have a direct effect on the EU's ability to live up to its potential as a proactive and effective actor on the international stage. The European Development Cooperation Support Programme will construct a community of key actors and stakeholders; inform and advise 'change-makers' of current thinking and analysis of EU development cooperation and its relation to the wider arena of EU external action; support the conversation on EU external relations architecture; and take the agenda forward through policy analysis and by promoting the sharing and practical use of knowledge and information. A first Background Note on Options for Architectural Reform in European development cooperation has already been posted. For more information, click [here](#) or email Deborah Johnson at edcsp@odi.org.uk

EC Development Commissioner Designate Parliament hearing. 1 September 2009.

The new European Parliament Development Committee has held a confirmation hearing where Commissioner Designate Karel De Gucht set out his views on EC development cooperation policy. MEPs had an opportunity to outline their political groups' priorities in this area and put questions to Mr. De Gucht. With the debate focusing on the impact of the global economic crisis on developing countries and how to sustain existing aid commitments, MEPs stressed that climate change funding to be agreed in Copenhagen in December - commitments of between 250-500 billion Euro a year expected to be taken - should be additional to existing ODA commitments. De Gucht agreed that new sources of finance are critical in this, and that absorption capacity in developing countries must be improved as well. De Gucht argued that Aid for Trade support was even more important than tariffs for international trade, while acknowledging that the substantial support being provided by the EU is not fresh money, but part of existing financial flows, something he is not in a position to change. The hearing also addressed the anticipated changes to the EU institutional structure if the Lisbon Treaty is adopted and the need to ensure the independence of development cooperation policies and policy coherence for development in the EU. The Development Committee's assessment will be presented to the full plenary of the Parliament from 14-17 September, following which a vote to confirm the new Commissioner will be held.

Click [here](#) to watch the hearing:

Click [here](#) to read the speech.

Click [here](#) to read the Parliament's report of the debate.

Why Africa is Burning. The Times, South Africa. 22 August 2009.

This 210-page document, compiled by the department's Africa Bilateral division after two years of research, includes material from authoritative books, journal articles, monographs, various African government reports and local and international agency reports. It concludes that one of the primary drivers of wars in Africa over the years has been foreign intervention in the exploitation of natural resources such as diamonds, oil and timber. Failure to address the issue of warring parties' access to the mines or the role of companies in fuelling the trade is undermining donors' aid and diplomatic efforts. The report identifies other root causes or triggers for conflict in Africa, including single key acts such as electoral fraud and political assassination, as well as border disputes, spillover effects, discriminatory policies and the legacy of colonialism. Click [here](#) to read more.

Economic and Trade Cooperation

Europe's economic priorities 2010-2015. Memos to the new Commission. Bruegel. 27 August 2009.

The new Commission will enter office at a challenging time for Europe, the EU and the Commission itself. The crisis has clearly exposed weaknesses in EU governance which need to be addressed. The Memos, addressed to the next Commission President and to the new European commissioners, are written by Bruegel Scholars and edited by Senior Research Fellow André Sapir and focus on key economic aspects of EU policy-making including: Budgetary and monetary policies, Climate change and energy, Competition and single market, Currencies and International finance, Emerging economies and development, Financial markets and regulation, European and global governance, Labour, migration and ageing, Research, innovation and growth, Trade, investment and competitiveness, New Member States,

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Enlargement and Neighbourhood. They are intended to be strategic, outlining the state of affairs that will be met by the new Commission and the key challenges and priorities they will need to consider over the next five years. They make a number of concrete recommendations of relevance for major economic fields, as well as for the EU and Commission as a whole. The Memos suggest that the EU will need to assert a position on commonly agreed rules, propose new solutions and, importantly, has an opportunity now to redefine the European narrative in the global arena. Click [here](#) to read more.

Why should mediators consider the economic dimensions of conflicts? Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. July 2009.

This paper by Mike Davis, Head of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue's Global Witness Conflict Resources Team which works to break the links between armed conflict and natural resource exploitation and trade, summarises the case for greater consideration of the economic dimensions of conflicts in mediation processes particularly those concerning natural resources. Building on the recent United Nations Environment Programme publication "From Conflict to Peace building - the Role of Natural Resources and the Environment", Davis highlights a number of reasons why economic issues have been sidelined in the mediation process such as mediators' understandable focus on political and security-related issues, a perception that economic issues are in any case best addressed after peace agreements and the sensitivity of discussing the profit motives of parties directly and indirectly involved in the conflict. The paper then details a number of recommendations to address economic issues including: avoiding vested interests when choosing the mediators themselves; mapping the warring parties' economic agendas and alliances; not apportioning natural resources as spoils of war; creating mechanisms to monitor economic issues post-agreement; and putting lootable natural resources out of reach. Click [here](#) to read more.

The anatomy of growth and development in sub Saharan Africa. Developing a typology of countries in Africa. African Economic Research Consortium. April 2009.

The major objectives of this paper are to analyse the inter-relationship among economic growth, inequality and poverty and to propose a typology of countries within Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) based on the different initial conditions they face and that can be used to derive appropriate development strategies. In particular, an attempt is made at deriving distinct strategies that embrace growth patterns that are likely to reduce poverty in each separate group of countries. The choice of the most appropriate development strategy is clearly context-specific and, ultimately, has to be shaped at the individual country level. Yet, the advantage of a typology is to highlight and emphasises the importance of those key and distinct conditions and features that influence the development paths of different categories of countries sharing relatively similar conditions. In order to understand better the anatomy of the development process, the changing structure of growth throughout this process has to be explored. In a continent where most countries are still at an early development stage and where the majority of the people reside in rural areas and are employed in agriculture, understanding the structural transformation process and the role of agriculture as a potential engine of growth, is of fundamental importance. Click [here](#) to read more.

Governance

Planning a Governance Assessment: A Guide to Approaches, Costs and Benefits. UNDP. March 2009.

This guide examines the basic issues that a country or organisation should consider when developing and producing a governance assessment. It is by no means the "last word", but should serve as a starting point and outline for those interested in conducting a country-led governance assessment. The paper explains the trade-offs of various approaches and methodologies in terms of quality and costs. At the same time, it provides some basic background on the technical aspects of conducting a governance assessment. The guide attempts to answer the rather complex question: how can country-led governance assessments be carried out with broad stakeholder participation at a reasonable cost, and at the same time produce meaningful results that can be used by civil society and governments alike? Click [here](#) to read more.

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