

10.03.08

Dear ,

This is the weekly e-alert on ACP-EU News.

Information provided in weekly e-alerts is available via daily updated RSS feeds which can be found on the ECDPM website's News and Events page [www.ecdpm.org/news](http://www.ecdpm.org/news). You can view all information or select feeds according to specific topics of interest. You may find these easier to read. And they are also available to any organisation to post on its own internal or external websites. This e-alert and previous issues are also available in PDF format at:

[http://www.ecdpm.org/Web\\_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/7732def81ddd7ac1256c240034fe65/2f9cc239d94a300bc1257344004ddd21?OpenDocument](http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/7732def81ddd7ac1256c240034fe65/2f9cc239d94a300bc1257344004ddd21?OpenDocument)

I need to improve the quality of the weekly e-alert with information and analysis from beyond what's available on the internet. If you have a moment to pass on anything that could usefully be included I'd be most grateful. It will be non-attributable of course (unless you prefer otherwise). If you provide information, then others will too with information useful to you.

All the best,

Melissa

**ACP-EU News**  
**Weekly E-alert**  
**10.03.08**

### **New at ECDPM**

\*2 April. EARN. The Europe-Africa policy-oriented Research Network meeting. This takes place the day after an EC international roundtable on "Prospects for the EU-AU partnership: institutional aspects" in Brussels in order to take advantage of possible synergies with the EC event. Purpose of the EARN meeting is to finalise decisions on the setting-up of EARN and discuss a programme of activities and budget to put EARN to work. A mapping of all European and ACP policy research institutes is being done at this moment to be presented at EARN meeting.

This roundtable, which will gather over one hundred participants from the worlds of policy and academia in Europe and Africa, is organised by the European Commission, in

collaboration with the AU Permanent Mission to the EU and aims at stimulating the policy debate on AU-EU relations, taking stock of the AU achievements so far, and fostering the reflection on how to make the EU-AU partnership more effective and successful.

\*10-15 March. There will be a “Whither EC Aid?” (WECA) roundtable in Sri Lanka

\*Two “Whither EC Aid?” (WECA) roundtables were held in Kigali, Rwanda on the 4th of March. The first one consisted of employees from the Rwandan Government and the Donor community and the second of representatives from the local Civil Society.

<http://weca-ecaid.eu/2008/02/27/roundtable-in-kigali-rwanda-4-march/>

\*On 22 February a “Whither EC Aid?” (WECA) roundtable took place in Madrid, Spain. The event was organised together with European think tank [FRIDE](#). Participants included Spanish policy makers, civil society representatives and academics.

<http://weca-ecaid.eu/2008/02/26/roundtable-madrid-22-february/>

\*EPA Negotiations: Where do we stand? - Update of 3 March 2008

[http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library\\_detail.php?library\\_detail\\_id=4218](http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library_detail.php?library_detail_id=4218)

### **General Reports/News of Contextual Interest**

\*Reform of United Nations Development Cooperation: Despite Progress, still a Long Way to go to Achieve more Coherence. German Institute for Development Policy A Briefing Paper on the UN’s development cooperation.

In relation to the Paris Declaration, the paper maintains that: “The UN organisations still need to conduct an analysis of their comparative advantages and to define their positions on the basis of the results – just as many other actors are required to. While earlier reforms of the UN development cooperation system [...] have laid the groundwork for an improved internal UN harmonisation, the UN organisations need to turn more to the outside and seek to improve their coordination with other development cooperation actors.”

<http://weca-ecaid.eu/2008/03/10/briefing-paper-on-uns-development-cooperation/>

\*Strategies for Impact and Policy Relevance.ODI

Over the last five years, ODI’s Research and Policy in Development programme (RAPID)<sup>1</sup> has been involved in research and advisory and capacity development work with a wide range of organizations throughout the developing world keen to improve the impact of their research on policy and practice, and has produced a wide range of practical guidelines and toolkits. Here’s what we’ve learned, summarised in six simple lessons.

The first lesson is that policy processes are fantastically complicated.

The second lesson is that research-based evidence usually plays a very minor role.

The third lesson is that research-based evidence can contribute to policies which can have a dramatic impact on peoples’ lives: it is possible.

The fourth lesson is that researchers need a holistic understanding of the context they are working in.

The fifth lesson is that to influence policy, researchers need additional skills. They need to be political fixers, able to understand the politics and identify the key players. They need to be good storytellers to synthesise simple compelling stories from the results of the research. They need to be good networkers to work effectively with all the other stakeholders, and they need to be good engineers to build a programme that pulls all of this together. Or they need to work in multidisciplinary teams with others who have these skills. ODI's RAPID programme has assembled a wide range of toolkits<sup>5</sup> including well-known and often straightforward tools to do these things.

The sixth lesson is that there must be intent – researchers need to really want to do it. Turning a researcher into a policy entrepreneur, or a research institute into a policy-focused think tank is not easy. It involves a fundamental reorientation towards policy engagement rather than academic achievement; engaging much more with the policy community; developing a research agenda focusing on policy issues rather than academic interests; acquiring new skills or building multidisciplinary teams; establishing new internal systems and incentives; spending much more on communicating effectively with all stakeholders. This should include dialogue before, during and after the research itself, producing appropriate communication products for each audience, at the right time, and working more in partnerships and networks. It may also involve looking at a radically different funding model. It's not easy, but it's not impossible, and it can make a huge difference to the lives of people in the developing world.

<http://www.glocaltimes.k3.mah.se/viewarticle.aspx?articleID=144&issueID=0>

[\\*ODI Working Papers 285 - Exploring the science of complexity: Ideas and implications for development and humanitarian efforts](#)

Despite the complexity and interconnectedness of problems faced in humanitarian and development work, they are often approached in an overly simplistic manner, informed by linear ways of thinking. This paper draws on the science of complexity to outline an alternative approach to analysing and understanding these problems. It explores and explains ten key concepts of complexity science and considers their implications for development and humanitarian work. It concludes that complexity science can enable those thinking about and working on these problems to better understand and adapt to the complexities of the real world. Its findings will be of particular interest to those working on processes of change - be they researchers, policy analysts and advisors, evaluators or managers who are working on change and reform initiatives.

[http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/working\\_papers/WP285.pdf](http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/working_papers/WP285.pdf)

### **Major ACP-EU Events/Debates**

\*\*\*CORRECTION\*\*\*

The previous issue of the ACP-EU Update indicated that the next European Development Days are to be organized in Bamako (Mali).

This is incorrect.

The next European Development Days will be organized in Strasbourg from 16-17 November

[http://www.donorplatform.org/component/option,com\\_events/task,view\\_detail/agid,94/year,2008/month,11/day,16/Itemid,33/catids,30%7C29%7C28%7C26/](http://www.donorplatform.org/component/option,com_events/task,view_detail/agid,94/year,2008/month,11/day,16/Itemid,33/catids,30%7C29%7C28%7C26/)

\*May. Ministerial Trade Committee at ACP Level. Brussels

\*8-13 June

87<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Council of Ministers. Addis

33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ACP-EC Council of Minister. Addis

\*25-27 June 3<sup>rd</sup> Civil Society Forum. Brussels

\*8-11 September 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly ACP. Brussels

\*2-3 October ACP Summit of Heads of State and Government. Accra

\*19-21 November. 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly (and preparatory meeting). Port Moresby

\*22-27 November. 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (and preparatory meetings). Port Moresby

\*4-5 December. Heads of ACP of Regional Integration Organizations. Brussels

\*December. 88<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Council of Ministers. Brussels

\*[The Trilateral Partnership: EU-China-Africa](#)

In the framework of the upcoming event on the finalisation of the trilateral partnership between the European Union, China and Africa planned by DG Development Commissioner, Louis Michel, this month, it is worth looking again at some important views on China from a African perspective.

African perspectives on China in Africa - [pdf](#)

China and the end of poverty in Africa: a mutual benefit? - [pdf](#)

<http://europafrica.org/2008/03/06/the-trilateral-partnership-eu-china-africa/>

\*25.04.08 - The European Union is to send a team of senior policymakers to Beijing for talks on climate change, the EU's trade deficit with China and other economic issues

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1456aac4-ebca-11dc-9493-0000779fd2ac.html>

\*French Prime Minister outlined priorities of the French EU Presidency the second half of this year to the EP EPP Group: the fight against global warming, specifically to set legislation to reduce gas emissions by 20%; harmonisation of legislation on immigration and asylum rights for better EU border controls and efficient development policy; European autonomous defence policy; and a check-up on the Common Agricultural Policy in order to reflect on its future".

02.08

[http://www.epp-ed.eu/press/psess08/report0802\\_en.asp#02](http://www.epp-ed.eu/press/psess08/report0802_en.asp#02)

\*20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Iron Curtain.

EU communication priority topic for 2009.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st06/st06845.en08.pdf>

\*Czech Republic EU Presidency Priorities. 2009

21.02.08

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/opinion/interview-czechs-push-europe-barriers-eu-helm/article-170428>

\*ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly November 2007 minutes

Held in Kigali (Rwanda) from 19 to 22 November 2007.

Only just now posted

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:058:SOM:EN:HTML>

### **EU Institutional Change**

\*Treaty of Lisbon and EU development aid Friends of Europe Conference.

Reports

26.02.08

<http://www.friendsofeurope.org/Events/2008/DPFLisbonTreatyandEUdevelopmentaid/tabid/1027/Default.aspx>

and

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=41358>

and

<http://euforic.blogspot.com/2008/02/how-to-live-up-on-expectations-of.html>

and

<http://euforic.blogspot.com/2008/02/is-eu-development-aid-entering-new-era.html>

\*The impact of the Lisbon Treaty on CFSP and ESDP

The Lisbon Treaty is an attempt to overcome the impasse caused by the failure of the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe. It aims to create an enhanced institutional architecture and to offer better opportunities for strengthened collective action. Among the various new provisions it contains, many do not challenge the essential inter-governmental nature of foreign and security policy decision making. Nevertheless, this article concludes that it does introduce a number of important institutional changes that require further discussion and elaboration before the Treaty enters into force.

ISIS Europe

[http://www.isis-europe.org/pdf/2008\\_artrel\\_150\\_esr37tol-mar08.pdf](http://www.isis-europe.org/pdf/2008_artrel_150_esr37tol-mar08.pdf)

### **EU Enlargement - New Neighbourhood Policy**

\*EC to support political, economic development in Western Balkans

The Commission adopts new initiatives, and enhances existing ones to support the political and economic development in the countries of the Western Balkans thus helping to accelerate their progress on the road towards EU membership. The proposals will be presented to the EU member states at the informal meeting of EU foreign ministers in Slovenia on 28-29 March.

05.03.08

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/378&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

and

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/144&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

\*EU Regional cooperation: an overview of main initiatives

The countries of South East Europe have made significant progress on regional cooperation in recent years, gradually assuming more ownership and responsibility for it. Regional cooperation constitutes an integral part of the region's European agenda.

05.03.08

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/143&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

\*EU support to civil society – a new financial facility under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

05.03.08

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/141&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

\*EU audits in 2008 include investment projects in structural measures, the application of the Binding Tariff Information system, The EU Solidarity Fund, Rehabilitation aid in areas affected by natural catastrophes, The instrument for structural policies for preaccession (ISPA)

26.02.08

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=ECA/08/6&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) – The EU's Role in the World**

\*Call for think tanks to flesh out new European External Action Service

While the final shape and form of the EEAS may ultimately be determined through backroom-deals under the French Presidency in late 2008, the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty will provide an opportunity to develop a new type of foreign policy bureaucracy, which can help the EU-27 address the many cross-cutting, and cross-country challenges that their current organisational set-up are ill-equipped to handle.

Much work is needed to put flesh on the bones of the EEAS and to do so in a way that takes into account new thinking. In this, think-tankers are coming to the EU's aid. The

EPC, and SWP have published studies on the subject; the CER expects to do so shortly while a group of former high-ranking officials - the Experts Group - are working on a report. The UK Parliament also issued a report recently.

Sad, therefore, that debates about the EU's new foreign policy bureaucracy have turned into a turf-protecting, entitlement-securing battle between the Commission and the Council, as both seek to maintain their institutional responsibilities and staff prerogatives. Fearful that any mention of the subject may scupper ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, most countries, large and small, have kept out of the debate.

European Council on Foreign Relations

[http://www.ecfr.eu/content/entry/commentary\\_acting\\_as\\_one\\_europes\\_diplomatic\\_service/](http://www.ecfr.eu/content/entry/commentary_acting_as_one_europes_diplomatic_service/)

\*EU Council Guidelines for external relations in the 2009 Budget

As far as external actions are concerned, taking into account the present and forthcoming challenges, both at the economic and stability level, the Council firmly believes that the role of the European Union as a global player must be reaffirmed and that the 2009 budget should have adequate means to match the Union's ambitions. In this respect, the Council stresses that sufficient margin within the ceiling of Heading 4 is vital for the European Union, in order to enable it to provide for unexpected needs and crises in the most effective, flexible and rapid way. In this context, the Council draws attention to the constantly growing role of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the need for it to continue to be adequately funded; therefore, it points out that a level of appropriations has to be in line with the provisions and amounts established in the IIA bearing in mind the yearly amounts retained in the financial programming when the IIA was agreed.

Economic and Financial Affairs

Brussels, 4 March 2008

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/ecofin/99189.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ecofin/99189.pdf)

\*Europe's Role in the World – the next 25 years. EU Commissioner for Enlargement

Olli Rehn

EU Commissioner for Enlargement

Europe's Role in the World – the next 25 years

CEPS annual conference "Europe's role in the world – the next 25 years"

Brussels, 28 February 2008

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/08/115&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

\*EU High Representative appoints Special Advisor for African peacekeeping capabilities  
Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) has appointed General Pierre- Michel Joana as Special Advisor for African peacekeeping capabilities. His appointment shall strengthen the partnership between African and EU in the field of prevention management and resolution of conflicts and is in line with the Africa-EU Joint Strategy adopted last December in Lisbon of which peace and security is a key dimension of the Action Plan.

29.02.08

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/99145.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/99145.pdf)

\*EU Council working group discusses a Place for Children in EU External Action'  
Thursday, 28 February 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Communication on "A Special Place for Children in EU External Action" + Staff  
Working papers - Draft Council Conclusions

Agenda

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/cm00/cm00745.en08.pdf>

\*EC announces Director in charge of strategy, co-ordination and delegations, external  
action service

EC announces Gerhard Sabathil, who is head of its delegation in Berlin, would be  
director in charge of strategy, co-ordination and delegations in the external relations  
department (Relex). One of his tasks will be co-ordinating the Commission's approach to  
the resuscitated external action service.

21.02.08

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/archive/article.asp?id=29894>

\*The Chad Crisis and Operation EUFOR Chad/CAR. Denis Tull. German Institute for  
international and Security Affairs 0208

[http://swp-berlin.org/en/produkte/swp\\_aktuell\\_detail.php?id=8771](http://swp-berlin.org/en/produkte/swp_aktuell_detail.php?id=8771)

\*European security in 2020: Threats, challenges and responses

This article looks over the horizon to explore some of the key security threats and  
challenges that are likely to confront European policy makers over the next dozen years.  
It provides a sweeping overview of the main actors, regions and issues involved, as well  
as highlighting the systemic problems we face in our efforts to respond. Concerted  
multilateral approaches are essential, backed by sustained political willpower over the  
long term. Unfortunately, even if we are able to achieve this, we could still end up acting  
too little too late when trying to address the wrong problem in the wrong way.

ISIS Europe

03.08

[http://www.isis-europe.org/pdf/2008\\_artrel\\_149\\_esr37europeansecurity2020-mar08.pdf](http://www.isis-europe.org/pdf/2008_artrel_149_esr37europeansecurity2020-mar08.pdf)

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ISIS Europe

[http://www.isis-europe.org/pdf/2008\\_artrel\\_150\\_esr37tol-mar08.pdf](http://www.isis-europe.org/pdf/2008_artrel_150_esr37tol-mar08.pdf)

\*EUFOR Tchad/RCA – A Cautionary Note. ISIS Europe

In late January 2008, the European Union launched its largest and most ambitious military operation in Africa - EUFOR Tchad/RCA – to protect civilians in eastern Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) through the deployment of 3,700 troops from 14 EU countries. But there are serious questions about the operation and the EU has little time to reflect on these for fear of losing the narrow window of time available for deployment prior to the rainy season.

03.08

ISIS Europe

[http://www.isis-europe.org/pdf/2008\\_artrel\\_148\\_esr37euforchad-mar08.pdf](http://www.isis-europe.org/pdf/2008_artrel_148_esr37euforchad-mar08.pdf)

\*[OECD DAC Handbook on Security System Reform: Supporting Security and Justice](#)

04-Feb-2008

The OECD DAC Handbook on Security System Reform is an operational manual designed by and for international actors working to address insecurity and to support access to justice.

[http://www.oecd.org/document/6/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_33721\\_37417926\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/6/0,3343,en_2649_33721_37417926_1_1_1_1,00.html)

\*Multi-layered justice and security delivery in post-conflict and fragile states

This paper examines the value of an alternative approach to SSR policy, namely a multi-layered one in post-conflict and fragile state environments. It begins by arguing that there is a state-centric bias in current SSR policy and practice. This contradicts development principles of a 'people-centred, locally owned' approach in post-conflict and fragile state contexts. The SSR's state-centric approach rests upon two fallacies: that the post-conflict and fragile state is capable of delivering justice and security; and that it is the main actor in security and justice. The paper goes on to present the outline of a multi-layered strategy. This addresses the issue of who is actually providing justice and security in post-conflict and fragile states. The paper continues by describing the accountability mechanisms that could be pursued by SSR programmes in support of this approach. The conclusion is that the advantage of the multi-layered approach is that it is based not on the state's capacity, but on the quality and efficacy of the services received by the end user, regardless of who delivers that service.

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a786441400~db=all~order=page>

\*Conflict, Social Change and Conflict Resolution. An Enquiry

What is the relationship between conflict and change? How can an understanding of this relationship help resolve conflicts? This paper from the Research Centre for Constructive Conflict management sets out a framework for thinking systematically about conflict and change. This distinguishes between change that: produces conflict, exacerbates conflict, reduces conflict or resolves conflict. While protracted conflict imposes numerous constraints, one universal factor can lead to change: the fact that human beings learn and, through learning, change.

<http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=2923&source=rss>

\*Development Dimensions of Conflict Prevention And Peace-Building

Despite lessons learned and periodic policy and programme adjustments, the overall performance by the international system in conflict situations remains weak and inconsistent. This paper, published by the United Nations Development Programme, discusses the link between conflict and development and recommends concrete ways in which development cooperation can respond to conflict most effectively. Development processes need to give primacy to the internal dynamics and potential of societies they assist and recognise both the contributions and limitations of the assistance they provide. <http://www.gsdr.org/go/display&type=Document&id=2925&source=rss>

\*SECURITY SECTOR REFORM (SSR) IN GUINEA-BISSAU

Africa Briefing Report

Egmont Palace, Brussels – 28 January 2008

<http://www.obsafrique.eu/publications/Africa%20Briefing%20GB%20Jan%2008%20EN.pdf> ‘

\*Post-Conflict Recovery:

Resource Mobilization and Peacebuilding

James K. Boyce

Department of Economics and

Political Economy Research Institute

University of Massachusetts, Amherst \*

February 2008

Societies embarked on the fragile transition from war to peace face enormous economic, social, and political challenges. In attempting to support this transition, the international community often provides substantial amounts of external assistance. This aid can play an important and constructive role in meeting pressing social needs and building a durable peace, but it would be naïve to assume either that positive effects are the automatic result of good intentions or that donors are motivated entirely by the objective of peacebuilding. This paper reviews evidence on the impact of aid in “post-conflict” settings and offers suggestions for making aid more effective in supporting efforts to build a durable peace. Part I discusses how economic assistance and conditionalities can be realigned to better serve peacebuilding objectives. Part II considers the other side of the coin: how peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding assistance can better support economic recovery, in particular by helping to build state fiscal capacities. Finally, Part III examines the interests and incentive structures that shape the behavior of aid donors, suggesting that their actions can be part of the problem as well as part of the solution.

[http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/working\\_papers/working\\_papers\\_151-200/WP159.pdf](http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/working_papers/working_papers_151-200/WP159.pdf)

\*Europe’s World February issue.

Many interesting articles on the EU’s role in global affairs

<http://www.europeworld.org/>

\*Europe’s global responsibility: The centrality of its development policy

By Simon Stocker, Director of Eurostep

02.08

[http://www.eurostep.org/wcm/dmdocuments/Budget%20review\\_draft%204b.pdf](http://www.eurostep.org/wcm/dmdocuments/Budget%20review_draft%204b.pdf)

### **EU Budget – European Development Fund**

\*Sources indicate that the EC plans on completing EDF Regional Indicative Programmes (RIPs) in September. Draft RIPs would be shared with EU Member States in April and the EPA Regional Preparatory Task Forces (RPTFs) would be ongoing region by region with meetings open to EU Member States.

\*The EC would like to have regional aid for trade packages in place by the end of the year. The EC is expected to produce a staff working document on aid for trade soon.

\*EU Council Guidelines for external relations in the 2009 Budget

As far as external actions are concerned, taking into account the present and forthcoming challenges, both at the economic and stability level, the Council firmly believes that the role of the European Union as a global player must be reaffirmed and that the 2009 budget should have adequate means to match the Union's ambitions. In this respect, the Council stresses that sufficient margin within the ceiling of Heading 4 is vital for the European Union, in order to enable it to provide for unexpected needs and crises in the most effective, flexible and rapid way.

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\*Première réunion du UEMOA-CEDEAO Comité de Pilotage Elargi du Programme Indicatif Régional

(PIR) 9ème FED/UEMOA/CEDEAO

25.02.08

<http://www.uemoa.int/BullInfo/Bull193d.pdf>

\*EU French Presidency priority in second half of this year is to discuss the long-term objectives of Common Agriculture Policy. A compromise on the aims of a modernised CAP must be found before the discussions in 2010 on reviewing policies and on the European Union budget.

In addition to the work on the CAP Health Check, which is to end under French EU Council Presidency, Nicolas Sarkozy trusts, during the second half of the year, to bring EU member states to a consensus on the aims of the CAP in 2013, saying: "It is not a matter of questioning the agreement on the budget, which is to run until 2013, or of pre-empting the next discussion on the general review of Community policies. It is a matter of giving CAP fresh consistency, of reaching an agreement on the objectives that should

underpin it". The discussion on the budget will come after (in 2010). "We shall not talk of the budget until we have reached agreement on the aims. We shall agree on the aims and then we shall set up a budget to the service of these aims", Mr Sarkozy explained. France defends the following CAP objectives: - food safety (regular supply with safety guarantees); - participation in world food balances (taking account of growing food demand, mainly in Asia); - and regional balance.  
25.02.08

\*Another site with ACP Country and Regional Strategy Papers on the web  
[http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/iqsg/documents\\_library\\_en.cfm#dsp0](http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/iqsg/documents_library_en.cfm#dsp0)  
This is in addition to the earlier site we informed on at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/methodologies/strategypapers10\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/methodologies/strategypapers10_en.cfm)

### **Political Dialogue – ACP-EU**

\*EU Council Decision revising political dialogue aspects of Cotonou Agreement  
EU Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement amending the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States  
25.02.08  
<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st06/st06368.en08.pdf>

### **EU-Africa Relations**

\*2 April. EARN. The Europe-Africa policy-oriented Research Network meeting. This takes place the day after an EC international roundtable on "Prospects for the EU-AU partnership: institutional aspects" in Brussels in order to take advantage of possible synergies with the EC event. Purpose of the EARN meeting is to finalise decisions on the setting-up of EARN and discuss a programme of activities and budget to put EARN to work. A mapping of all European and ACP policy research institutes is being done at this moment to be presented at EARN meeting.  
This roundtable, which will gather over one hundred participants from the worlds of policy and academia in Europe and Africa, is organised by the European Commission, in collaboration with the AU Permanent Mission to the EU and aims at stimulating the policy debate on AU-EU relations, taking stock of the AU achievements so far, and fostering the reflection on how to make the EU-AU partnership more effective and successful.

\*2-3 October ACP Summit of Heads of State and Government. Accra

\*The EU, not the US, is leading the international fight against African poverty.  
Brookings Institute

Between 2000 and 2006, U.S. economic aid to sub-Saharan Africa increased from \$2.1 billion to \$5.4 billion (in constant terms). That is commendable. But it is also the case that Africa has become the focus of aid efforts by the global development community and aid from many other countries has also gone up, in some cases by even more. European Union countries, for example, gave \$21.9 billion to Africa in 2006—four times as much as the United States. The United Kingdom on its own gave \$5.2 billion to Africa, almost the same amount as the United States from a country whose economy is one-sixth the size.

05.03.08

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/0220\\_african\\_aid\\_kharas.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/0220_african_aid_kharas.aspx)

\*2007 may come to be regarded as the year when Europe lost the preeminence it once had in Africa

A very good summary of the current state of EU-Africa relations.

Crisis of mutual perception between Europe and Africa is real and, with hindsight, 2007 may come to be regarded as the year of missed opportunities -- the year when Europe finally lost the preeminence it once had in Africa.

The only thing, it seems, that Europe can still do better than others in Africa is military intervention.

A very good summary of the current state of EU-Africa relations.

28.02.08

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,537699,00.html>

\*French president says Africa should have at least one permanent seat on UN Security Council

French president said Africa should have at least one permanent seat on the UN Security Council and that France would no longer accept major world affairs being discussed without a leading African country being involved. France will also renegotiate its defence deals with African countries, French President Nicolas Sarkozy has said.

28.02.08

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7268814.stm>

\*[Déclaration conjointe des Présidents Nicolas Sarkozy et Thabo Mbeki après leur entretien](#)

dans le cadre de la visite d'Etat du Président français en Afrique du Sud

Le Cap, le 28 février 2008

<http://appablog.wordpress.com/2008/02/29/france-afrique-sarkozy-mbeki-declaration-conjointe-des-presidents-nicolas-sarkozy-et-thabo-mbeki-apres-leur-entretien-dans-le-cadre-de-la-visite-d%e2%80%99etat-du-president-francais-en-afrique/>

\*Speech by M. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the Republic, to the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

28.02.08

<http://www.ambafrance-uk.org/President-Sarkozy-s-speech-to-the.html>

\*The role of the new EU Member States in EU-Africa Development Policy. AWEPA conference report

This year's first AWEPA conference was titled 'The role of the new EU Member States in EU-Africa Development Policy' and provided some information in how far the new EU Member States are involved in the implementation of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy in particular and in shaping EU-Africa Relations in general.

27-28.02.08

<http://europafrica.org/2007/03/03/summary-of-the-awepa-conference-on-the-role-of-the-new-eu-ms-in-eu-africa-development-policy/>

\*The final text of the Strategic Partnership agreed at the Africa-EU Summit on 8/9 December 2007 in Lisbon

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st07/st07204.en08.pdf>

\*Joint EU-Africa Strategy working group discusses implementation

Date: 27 February 2008 (10.00 hrs) to discuss

Implementation of the Strategic Africa-EU Partnership and its first Action Plan 2008-2010

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/cm00/cm00747.en08.pdf>

### **Migration and Development**

\*EU Council working group discusses Preparations of the II Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development - "Rabat II process" (Paris, 20-21 October 2008)

28 February

Agenda

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/cm00/cm00745.en08.pdf>

### **EU External Aid**

\*10-15 March. There will be a "Whither EC Aid?" (WECA) roundtable in Sri Lanka

\*Two "Whither EC Aid?" (WECA) roundtables were held in Kigali, Rwanda on the 4th of March. The first one consisted of employees from the Rwandan Government and the Donor community and the second of representatives from the local Civil Society.

<http://weca-ecaaid.eu/2008/02/27/roundtable-in-kigali-rwanda-4-march/>

\*On 22 February a "Whither EC Aid?" (WECA) roundtable took place in Madrid, Spain. The event was organised together with European think tank [FRIDE](#). Participants included Spanish policy makers, civil society representatives and academics.

<http://weca-ecaaid.eu/2008/02/26/roundtable-madrid-22-february/>

\*Call for think tanks to flesh out new European External Action Service

While the final shape and form of the EEAS may ultimately be determined through backroom-deals under the French Presidency in late 2008, the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty will provide an opportunity to develop a new type of foreign policy bureaucracy, which can help the EU-27 address the many cross-cutting, and cross-country challenges that their current organisational set-up are ill-equipped to handle.

Much work is needed to put flesh on the bones of the EEAS and to do so in a way that takes into account new thinking. In this, think-tankers are coming to the EU's aid. The EPC, and SWP have published studies on the subject; the CER expects to do so shortly while a group of former high-ranking officials - the Experts Group - are working on a report. The UK Parliament also issued a report recently.

Sad, therefore, that debates about the EU's new foreign policy bureaucracy have turned into a turf-protecting, entitlement-securing battle between the Commission and the Council, as both seek to maintain their institutional responsibilities and staff prerogatives. Fearful that any mention of the subject may scupper ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, most countries, large and small, have kept out of the debate..

European Council on Foreign Relations

[http://www.ecfr.eu/content/entry/commentary\\_acting\\_as\\_one\\_europes\\_diplomatic\\_service/](http://www.ecfr.eu/content/entry/commentary_acting_as_one_europes_diplomatic_service/)

\*EC working on staff working documents on Policy Coherence for Development and on Aid Effectiveness.

\*[DFID Evaluation of the EC's Development Effectiveness](#)

In their evaluation DFID lauds the EC for reforms of instruments and policies but maintains that “delegations are still prevented from making timely responses by an often bureaucratic system of checks and balances, and the Commission sometimes lacks the numbers of people with skills and experience appropriate for development.” Improvements are expected when the reforms addressed in the Lisbon Treaty comes into effect.

10.03.08

<http://weca-ecaid.eu/2008/03/10/dfid-evaluation-of-the-ecs-development-effectiveness/>

\*3 March. EP DEV meeting with Director-General EC DG DEV

Exchange of views with Stefano Manservigi, Director-General, DG DEV, European Commission

- Commission's Work Programme

- Regional integration

EEPA Report

[http://www.eepa.be/wcm/dmdocuments/EP\\_DEVE%20030308.pdf](http://www.eepa.be/wcm/dmdocuments/EP_DEVE%20030308.pdf)

\*Follow-up to the Paris Declaration of 2005 on Aid Effectiveness

European Parliament Development Committee draft report

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004\\_2009/documents/pr/709/709878/709878en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/709/709878/709878en.pdf)

\*EU Council working group discusses aid effectiveness

28 February

Agenda

Preparations for the III High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Accra, 2-4 September 2008)

- Report on the Technical Seminar on "Roadmap on EU Aid Effectiveness - Accra and beyond (Brussels, 19-20 February 2008)

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/cm00/cm00745.en08.pdf>

\*EC announces Director in charge of strategy, co-ordination and delegations, external action service

EC announces Gerhard Sabathil, who is head of its delegation in Berlin, would be director in charge of strategy, co-ordination and delegations in the external relations department (Relex). One of his tasks will be co-ordinating the Commission's approach to the resurrected external action service.

21.02.08

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/archive/article.asp?id=29894>

\*UK Prime Minister in visit to EC says the UK supports EC proposals to create "effective and competitive" energy markets and further open up the telecommunications market. The United Kingdom also supports completion of the internal market and awaits the Commission's proposals expected next June on the "Small Business Act" for Europe. The UK believes Europe "must lead the way" on Fight against climate change and sustainable development. With regard to the fight against world poverty, the Prime Ministers said that the EU should define its projects in this area and adopt an action plan at the June European Council to allow the EU and its member states to reach the Millennium Development Objectives. With regard to budget reform, he asked the EU to refocus on the future challenges in an effort to increase spending targets.

21.02.08

\*First All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme Newsletter outlining programme and possibilities

We are pleased to bring to you this first issue of the "All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme" Newsletter. This is the opportunity to

-introduce readers to this new EU-funded programme and to Members of our Steering Committee

-provide details on the major consultations being planned in the various ACP regions and

-give some insights into the "Trade Opportunity Scans" being run by programme partners

02.08

<http://www.euacpcommodities.eu/files/NEWSLETTER1%20eng.pdf>

\*Outcome-based conditionality: Too good to be true? EURODAD REPORT

Citizen groups demanding more and better aid have increased public debate about development funds. Citizens in the North and the South want to know whether public money is paying for development and whether it is lifting people out of poverty. In response to these demands, governments at the Rome and Paris aid conferences<sup>1</sup> agreed to adopt a results agenda. Since then, ownership and mutual accountability have become

the new development mantras. However, the continued use of old-fashioned conditionality on development finance operations undermines the implementation of these principles.

The failures of traditional policy-based conditionality have been recognised, leading to several proposals for new approaches which strengthen ownership and development effectiveness:<sup>2</sup> One promising approach suggests linking disbursement to achieved or pledged development results encompasses, in principle, the potential to increase government ownership and link development programs to their impact on poverty reduction. It would also help measure the effectiveness of aid in delivering the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals.

The first part of this report analyses new approaches to contractual relations in development aid as explored and used by the World Bank, the IMF and the European Commission. The second part assesses the experience by the European Commission, the only multilateral which has implemented outcome-based conditionality. The report features analysis and opinions on the pilot operations in three African countries: Burkina Faso, Mozambique, and Tanzania.

02.08

[http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats\\_New/Reports/Outcome\\_based\\_conditionality.pdf](http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Outcome_based_conditionality.pdf)

### **Building and Evaluating Capacity Development**

\*EU Council Conclusions with regard to Court of Auditors special report n° 6/2007 on the effectiveness of technical assistance in the context of capacity development  
25 February 2008

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/98881.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/98881.pdf)

### **Budgetary Support and Programme-Based/Sector-Wide Approaches**

\*EU Council working group discussions on MDG Contract concept

26.02.08

Agenda

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/cm00/cm00727.en08.pdf>

### **Good Governance**

\*4 March 14.00: M. Louis MICHEL reçoit M. Ousmane SY, conseiller spécial à distance, coordinateur de l'alliance pour refonder la gouvernance en Afrique. (BERL - 10/165).

\*OECD DAC GOVNET Conference on Governance Assessments and Aid Effectiveness  
20-21.02.08

LONDON-CONFERENCE ON DONOR APPROACHES TO GOVERNANCE  
ASSESSMENTS

Conference identifies broad set of opportunities to work together and engage better with partner countries in undertaking governance assessments.

During a 2-day conference in London on February 20-21, more than 100 governance specialists from 28 development agencies, 13 colleagues from developing countries, civil society and academia discussed why, how and when donors assess governance in partner countries and which impact these assessments have. The conference sought to take stock of present practices, stimulate mutual learning and find ways to cooperate so that assessments are better used by in-country stakeholders engaged in improving governance. The Governance Network under OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and a consortium of consultants led by Nils Boesen had arranged the conference, which built on a survey of the approaches actually used by donors and 10 country case studies. For more details about the conference please see this link:

[www.oecd.org/dac/governance/govassessment](http://www.oecd.org/dac/governance/govassessment)

Key conclusions emerging from the conference include:

It is timely to clarify purposes, underlying assumptions and types of different tools and approaches. This can help reduce the number and enhance quality of the multiple donor governance assessments which have emerged over the last decade as donors have realized the importance of governance for aid effectiveness and are seeking aid delivery modalities as budget support which is premised on minimal standards of governance. A starting point for this clarification process could be the development of a government assessment tool typology to identify avenues for rationalization/harmonization measures. There is a frontier to be jointly explored at sector and thematic level. While general governance assessments usefully may serve aid allocation and general advocacy purposes, sector-specific and thematic assessments hold promise for more actionable approaches in relation to e.g. water, transport, Human Rights, corruption, and conflict. Transparency should be the default option but should be carefully handled. Depending on the purpose of an assessment it may be for restricted circulation – but donors and partners should push for more transparency. Assessment methodologies with their strengths and weaknesses should be made publicly accessible.

Much more can be done to strengthen partner country owned assessment processes. While donor-driven assessments serve donor decision making, policy dialogue and programming, the key impetus for enhanced governance is coming from domestic political processes which are best stimulated by home-grown assessments of governance by government and civil society stakeholders.

Donor incentives to work together can be strengthened. Joint learning and shared basic norms can make it more rewarding for agencies to work together. The prospect of better quality joint assessments of conflict risks and corruption vulnerabilities would be an incentive for senior level agency staff to push for joint approaches.

Harmonization will be spurred by incentives and must bring added value. The conference identified promising opportunities for working together as mentioned above, but it also made clear that diversity in this area is to be expected and even desired. The challenge will be to identify areas for strategic, incremental change towards better informed and better executed governance assessments which strengthen domestic processes towards better governance for development.

Over the next months the results of the conference will be condensed into operational principles and a sourcebook offering practical advice to (i) governance specialists

working with assessments, (ii) agency staff working in sectors and with themes where governance is an everyday activity, and (iii) partner country stakeholders involved in governance assessments. Aiming to be living and practical guidance, the sourcebook will be web-based and include links to other major initiatives so as to avoid overlap and duplication. The sourcebook website will be hosted by OECD/DAC and thus accommodate, in a practical manner, the request from conference participants for a common entrance portal to the work in this area.

The GOVNET will review the results of the governance assessment projects in its next scheduled meeting in June 2008, where possible messages to higher level forums such as the Accra meeting in September 2008 will also be discussed.

[http://www.oecd.org/document/14/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34565\\_39869902\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/14/0,3343,en_2649_34565_39869902_1_1_1_1,00.html)

\*Buying Power. Aid, Governance and Public Procurement. Christian Aid

It sounds very administrative and technical, but reform of government procurement – the rules that guide government purchasing of goods, works and services – is one of the most controversial aspects of the good governance agenda. Donors have two goals: greater accountability and transparency, which is limited because of its reliance on a one-size-fits-all approach; and greater efficiency, which is narrowly defined as value for money to be secured through open competition. This not only restricts the flexibility of developing country governments to use procurement as a policy tool for development, it can also have significant consequences for local firms that rely on government contracts.

02.08

<http://www.futureofaid.net/files/Buying%20Power.pdf>

### **Coordination/Complementarity/Harmonisation/Coherence**

\*EU COUNCIL WORKING PARTY ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Discusses Policy Coherence for Development Rolling Work Programme 2008-9.

presentation and exchange of views

6 March

Agenda

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/cm00/cm00855.en08.pdf>

### **Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)**

\*EPA Negotiations: Where do we stand? - Update of 3 March 2008

[http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library\\_detail.php?library\\_detail\\_id=4218](http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library_detail.php?library_detail_id=4218)

\*EU audits in 2008 include investment projects in structural measures, the application of the Binding Tariff Information system, The EU Solidarity Fund, Rehabilitation aid in areas affected by natural catastrophes, The instrument for structural policies for preaccession (ISPA)

26.02.08

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=ECA/08/6&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

\*ACP chief negotiators meeting scheduled in April, likely to be postponed to another, as yet not known, date.

\*Sources indicate that the EC plans on completing EDF Regional Indicative Programmes (RIPs) in September. Draft RIPs would be shared with EU Member States in April and the EPA Regional Preparatory Task Forces (RPTFs) would be ongoing region by region with meetings open to EU Member States.

\*The EC would like to have regional aid for trade packages in place by the end of the year. The EC is expected to produce a staff working document on aid for trade soon.

\*The AU's Konare sent a letter to Barroso proposing to hold a meeting on EPAs around May

\*May. Ministerial Trade Committee at ACP Level. Brussels

\*8-13 June

87<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Council of Ministers. Addis

33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers. Addis

\*8-11 September. 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly ACP. Brussels (only ACP?)

\*2-3 October. ACP Summit of Heads of State and Government. Accra

\*19-21 November. 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly (and preparatory meeting). Port Moresby

\*22-27 November. 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (and preparatory meetings). Port Moresby

\*4-5 December. Heads of ACP of Regional Integration Organizations. Brussels

\*December. 88<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACP Council of Ministers. Brussels

\*Public consultation for an EC Communication on Regional Integration in ACP countries will take place from early March to early May, with a view to adopting the EC Communication in September.

\*Douane camerounaise pourrait perdre 100 milliards de francs CFA par an à cause des APE

Une récente étude de l'administration douanière et du Groupement interpatronal du Cameroun (GICAM) indique que la douane camerounaise pourrait perdre beaucoup d'argent à cause des APE, en moyenne 100 milliards de francs CFA par an.

09.03.08

<http://www.lesafriques.com/droit-africain/la-douane-camerounaise-face-aux-defis-des-ape.html?Itemid=225?articleid=3526>

\*EU should make its Caribbean development commitments legally binding

The most disconcerting aspect of the EU's sleight-of-hand and regular re-packaging of aid envelopes to accompany new initiatives on behalf of poor countries is that the development dimension of the EPA can only be made secure if the EU makes its assistance commitments legal, time-bound, specific and subject to the legal provisions of the Dispute Avoidance and Settlement provisions in the EPA. Promises alone are not enough, and its record with assistance-delivery mechanisms is poor. As pointed out earlier, the main beneficiaries of EU aid have been those consultancy firms which have mastered the art of its aid bureaucracy.

09.03.08

[http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article\\_sunday\\_features?id=56540721](http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_sunday_features?id=56540721)

\*Caribbean EPA signing delayed until June

Caribbean Community (Caricom) Governments and the European Union will not be signing the controversial Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in April, as scheduled. They will instead sign the EPA two months later, Trade and Industry Minister Dr Keith Rowley said here yesterday at the Sheraton Hotel in Nassau, after the opening ceremony of the 19th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Caricom Heads of Government Conference. "There has been a little slippage with respect to the date for the signing of the EPA with the European Union... that's now pushed back down towards June because the technical people and the Secretariat had some more work to do in preparing the final document," Rowley said.

08.03.08

[http://www.trinidadexpress.com/index.pl/article\\_business?id=161290261](http://www.trinidadexpress.com/index.pl/article_business?id=161290261)

\*Swaziland economist says services, investment in EPA detrimental to domestic industry  
Although government has reaffirmed its commitment to the second phase of negotiations towards a full EPA (economic partnership agreement) with the European Union (EU), which relates to trade in services and investment, economists continue to argue that it will be detrimental to the domestic industry.

Economist Thembinkosi Dlamini stated: "If one looks at the EPA for what it really is, it is clear that it wants those things that are under the Doha Development Agenda, that is, trade in services and investment as well as government procurement."

He said that Swaziland or the Southern African Development Community (SADC) would not be able to compete with a European company for trade in services. "We have no offensive interests as far as services are concerned because there is just no way we can compete with Europe in this regard... Their services are years ahead of us in terms of development and there's no way we can sell ours to them, instead, we need those services to come here."

07.03.08

<http://www.tralac.org/scripts/content.php?id=7438>

\*Caribbean EPA Institutional arrangements raise concerns - Supranational council seen as infringing sovereignty

Tucked away towards the end of the Caribbean Economic [Partnership Agreement](#) (EPA) with Europe is a section that deals with what are known as the institutional arrangements. This seemingly dry text is in fact of considerable importance not least because it will determine how the [EPA](#) is implemented, who will benefit, and how decisions will be made on its governance.

According to some in the region, it also touches on issues of Caribbean sovereignty and may affect less directly the Caribbean relationship in the all-ACP Cotonou [Convention](#) with Europe.

07.03.08

<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20080307/business/business13.html>

\*South Africa President says EPAs must not be obstacles to regional and African integration

"It is clear to us that various provisions in the economic partnership agreements would work in an adverse manner ... with regard to this process of regional integration," said Mbeki in reply to a question in parliament.

"We want to pursue the decision ... that there should be engagement to make sure that the economic partnership agreements don't act as an obstacle to the achievement of the goal of regional integration on our continent and African unity."

06.03.08

<http://africa.reuters.com/top/news/usnBAN656592.html>

\*South Africa backs off from threat to break up SACU

SOUTH African trade negotiators have, at least for now, backed off from their threat to break up the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) in a standoff with other member states over a divisive economic partnership agreement (EPA) being negotiated with the European Union (EU).

At a crucial meeting of Southern African Development Community (SADC) trade ministers in Gaborone which ended on Tuesday,

An observer at the meeting said SA's approach was more emollient and was thought have been on the orders of President Thabo Mbeki, who met EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson at the weekend before the Gaborone meeting.

It was not clear whether SA's stance was a "genuine retreat or a tactical one", the observer said.

However, SA had not relented on its concerns about the content of the interim EPA, and remained outside the negotiations.

It is understood that other members of Sacu, notably Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, flexed their muscle at the Gaborone meeting, demanding that SA's concerns be addressed collectively in the customs union before being put to the EU. They were apparently supported by Mozambique which is also party to the EPAs, but not a member of Sacu.

A trade commentator, who declined to be named, said the situation was politically sensitive, with Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland for the first time challenging SA's unilateral approach in the region.

"Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland have revolted. Politically, the situation is very, very sensitive."

The trade and industry department -- the custodian of trade negotiations and the regional integration process in SADC and Sacu -- would be unable to break up the customs union, without putting the issue to the treasury, which signed off on the Sacu Agreement of 2002.

The foreign affairs department, as custodian of foreign policy, has to be involved, the commentator said.

"This then becomes an issue for the cabinet," he said.

Speaking after the meeting, Mandelson said: "The atmosphere was better and there is a real resolve among all the members to press ahead with the negotiation of the EPA.

"I hope Namibia and SA will come on board and that we can re-engage them as we go forward.

"If they are prepared to negotiate in good faith, the others would welcome them on board."

The European trade chief was, however, emphatic that the original interim text, which had been signed off at the end of November by Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland, would not be renegotiated and that timelines for the second phase of the negotiations (on services liberalisation) would not be changed.

The South African trade and industry department could not be reached for comment. 06.03.08

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200803060051.html>

\*Resolving the difficulties will require a lot of political will and sensitivity from both South Africa and the EU, writes AllAfrica guest columnist Nkululeko Khumalo of the South African Institute of International Affairs.

The EPA talks have caused serious problems and threaten the very existence of SACU. The fact that Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho and Namibia (the last with some reservations) have signed the interim EPAs and South Africa has not undermines the integrity of the customs union since there will now be two different external tariff regimes.

Further, since the SACU Agreement prohibits any member state from negotiating and entering into trade agreements with external partners without the consent of other members, South Africa could legally challenge the IEPAs by simply withholding its consent. In the poisoned atmosphere that is currently prevailing within SACU such an approach could precipitate its dissolution.

It is clear that EPAs present a big challenge to SADC EPA countries, particularly SACU member states. The priority at this stage is to bring SA to sign the IEPA and flexibilities will have to be introduced into the agreement in order to do so. This would require a lot of political will and sensitivity from SA and the EU.

The second phase is not really a problem for now since all that is required is commitment to negotiate. The same logic applies to all ACP countries that have signed the IEPAs.

However, they should not rest on their laurels but demonstrate a willingness to conclude the second phase of talks and take advantage of the capacity-building assistance.

06.03.08

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200803060029.html?viewall=1>

\*Swaziland EPA Statement

Statement from Swaziland Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade with regard to the government's position on the interim SADC-EPA

06.03.08

[http://www.tralac.org/pdf/20080306\\_press\\_statement.pdf](http://www.tralac.org/pdf/20080306_press_statement.pdf)

\*Un ministère de l'Economie séminaire a Mali dans la promotion du commerce

Un séminaire regroupe depuis hier au Centre international de conférences de Bamako une cinquantaine de responsables et d'agents de l'administration malienne impliqués dans la promotion du commerce au Mali. Il est organisé par le ministère de l'Economie, de l'Industrie et Commerce, en partenariat avec l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie dans le cadre du projet Hub and Spokes de renforcement des capacités en négociation, en formulations et dans la mise en œuvre des politiques commerciales.

Pendant les cinq jours que durera le séminaire, les participants se pencheront sur des thèmes allant de "l'OMC, négociations de Doha, négociations des APE, le système commercial multilatéral" à "opportunités offertes par la facilitation commerciale pour les pays en voie de développement" en passant par "les procédures douanières au Mali", "la structure et les principes de base du système commercial multilatéral", "l'examen de politiques commerciales de l'OMC et les enjeux de développement", "le programme de Doha pour le développement", "l'accès aux marchés non agricoles", "les accords commerciaux et l'OMC", "les accords de partenariats économiques", "les enjeux économiques des ACR", "une discussion ouverte sur les APE avec les trois intervenants de la session" et "la facilitation des échanges et l'état actuel des négociations". Ces thèmes, qui seront développés par d'éminents experts, seront suivis de discussions que l'on est en droit d'espérer très fécondes et enrichissantes.

"Comme vous le savez, les pays à faible niveau de développement tirent peu de bénéfice de leur participation au système commercial multilatéral. Cela s'explique par la faiblesse de leur capacité d'offre et la non maîtrise des accords, d'une part, et des tendances de plus en plus protectionnistes des pays développés, d'autre part. Les défis auxquels le Mali doit faire face pour tirer le meilleur parti de sa participation au commerce mondial sont nombreux et complexes. En effet, le pays doit non seulement répondre présent dans les différentes instances de négociations où nos intérêts sont en jeu, mais également savoir prendre des engagements compatibles avec les préoccupations de développement de son économie" a déclaré Mamadou Traoré, Secrétaire général du ministère de l'Economie, de l'Industrie et du Commerce, à l'ouverture des travaux.

06.03.08

<http://www.maliweb.net/category.php?NID=28134&intr=>

\*ECOWAS CET. The Imperatives of Nigeria's Fifth Band. NANTS

06.03.08

[http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp\\_resource\\_details&resource\\_id=46496&cat\\_id=6364](http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=46496&cat_id=6364)

\*4-6 March. EU Economic and Social Committee to discuss EPAs

Du 4 au 6 mars 2008, le Comité économique et social européen (CESE) organisera la 25<sup>e</sup> rencontre des milieux économiques et sociaux ACP-UE intitulée: "Un meilleur partenariat pour un meilleur développement". Cette réunion, préparée sous l'égide de l'Assemblée parlementaire paritaire ACP-UE, donnera aux représentants de la société civile la possibilité de débattre du partenariat ACP-UE, en présence de M. Dimitriadis, Président du CESE, de M. Michel, commissaire européen en charge du développement et de l'aide humanitaire, de M<sup>me</sup> Kinnock, coprésidente de l'Assemblée parlementaire paritaire ACP-UE et de M. Falkenberg, directeur général adjoint de la DG Commerce. S.E.M. Ali Farah Assoweh, Président du Conseil des Ministres ACP et un représentant de l'ECOSOCC de l'Union africaine y participeront également.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=CES/08/16&format=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=en>

\*EC Trade Commissioner says agreement on SADC EPAs go-ahead

EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson spoke of a "significant development" at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) ministerial meeting held in Botswana yesterday.

"South Africa has said it would not stand in the way of other SADC members, which had initialled an interim economic partnership agreement at the end of last year," said Mandelson. "I assume the comment was sincerely made and that the other countries will not be obstructed."

He said the meeting reaffirmed the status quo. The deal was initialled by Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique on November 23 and later by Namibia - which means it had been agreed by the negotiators but not yet signed by the governments. South Africa's refusal to sign the agreement is controversial and threatens to damage relations in the region.

Mandelson said: "SADC members are happy to let the existing interim agreement stand. But Namibia, which has initialled the agreement and SA, which has not, want their concerns to be addressed.

"The other SADC members said they want to share their concerns with SA and Namibia and, if they collectively come to me with their concerns, I will be flexible.

"But I will only consider any adjustments in the context of the next stage of the negotiations between now until the end of the year," he added.

Mandelson repeated that he was not prepared to renegotiate the whole deal.

"They have got major advantages. To threaten disruption of their trade, to put at risk what has been agreed, would be unthinkable."

05.03.08

[http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?from=rss\\_&fArticleId=4287455](http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?from=rss_&fArticleId=4287455)

\*ESA Ministerial commitment to conclude a comprehensive, inclusive and development friendly EPA

Felix Mutati, Zambia Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister, has reiterated the commitment of Eastern and Southern African (ESA) countries to conclude a “comprehensive, inclusive and development friendly Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU)”.

Mutati, who is also chairman of the ESA council of ministers under the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), said that the region has agreed to continue negotiations with the European Commission (EC) as a collective body of 16 countries as they consider regional integration important.

The comments were made during the joint ESA-EC council meeting at the COMESA secretariat in Lusaka on Monday, which was focused on the EPA negotiations. Mutati said that following the ministerial meeting in November 2007, it was recognised that ESA countries would be unable to conclude a deal by the set deadline. An interim agreement was thus concluded in order to address issues of trade disruption while establishing a framework for continued negotiations towards a full EPA.

05.03.08

<http://www.tralac.org/scripts/content.php?id=7430>

\*More reporting on the South Africa-EC EPA discussions

05.03.08

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200803050175.html>

\*The EC President has written to the ACP Council President indicated that he and his EC DG Trade and Development Commissioners remain available for high level contacts to ensure flexibility in the EPA negotiations in all regions. He also apparently indicated that he believes, however, that the ground should be prepared first at technical and senior officials level in each region before the high level meetings take place. The EC President also said he'd like regular contact with the President of the ACP Council and invited him to Brussels to discuss on other related issues (no date was proposed for this meeting).

\*Caribbean Private Sector Urged to Prepare for EU Market Access at TACARI meeting  
Technical Assistance to the Caribbean (TACARI) Regional EU Market Access Seminar  
The TACARI project is aimed at increasing trade between Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the EU by promoting the EU market access capacity of Intermediary Business Organizations, such as Chambers of Commerce and Industry, sector associations, and export promoters.

04.03.08

[http://www.jis.gov.jm/commerce\\_science/html/20080304T080000-0500\\_14421\\_JIS\\_SECTOR\\_INTERESTS\\_URGED\\_TO\\_BE\\_FULLY\\_PREPARED\\_FOR\\_MARKET\\_ACCESS\\_IN\\_EUROPE.asp](http://www.jis.gov.jm/commerce_science/html/20080304T080000-0500_14421_JIS_SECTOR_INTERESTS_URGED_TO_BE_FULLY_PREPARED_FOR_MARKET_ACCESS_IN_EUROPE.asp)

\*SADC-EC Trade Ministers EPA Meeting. Joint Declaration

Trade Ministers from the SADC EPA States, and the European Trade Commissioner met in Gaborone on 4 March 2008 to take stock of the progress of Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations, including notably the initialling of an Interim EPA at the end of 2007 between five SADC EPA Member States and the EC. The meeting served to

provide political impetus and guidance for the remaining steps in the negotiation process, notably the conclusion of a full EPA by 31 December 2008.

[http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp\\_resource\\_details&resource\\_id=46497&cat\\_id=6364](http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=46497&cat_id=6364)

\*South Africa and EC outline EPA priorities, concerns  
03.03.08

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200803030108.html>

\*EC-SADC say negotiations focussed on comprehensive EPA

In a joint statement issued in Gaborone, the SADC secretariat and European Commission say the meeting will focus on negotiations for a full EU-SADC EPA, including liberalisation of trade in services and rules on investments as well as the implementation of the current Interim EU-SADC EPA on trade in goods.

South Africa's chief trade negotiator, Xavier Carim, said: "None of us are looking at the break-up of the customs union.

We will try to go forward in a way that will not undermine the benefits achieved by the other countries, but also not undermine Namibia and SA's positions. The EU has indicated it is prepared to address some of the problematic issues."

03.03.08 <http://allafrica.com/stories/200803032082.html>

\*Senegalese President says Chinese support more effective than EU  
03.03.08

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200803030927.html>

\*EC Trade Commissioner says development needs of SADC's most needy members must be paramount

Mandelson discussed the matter with President Thabo Mbeki on Saturday, in a meeting he described later as amicable: "We did not solve all the issues, but I think there is a better understanding between us. It is in both our interests to sort things out, but we also have a responsibility to those in the region. Our differences have put them in a difficult position."

SA appeared to be grappling with broader, sometimes conflicting, issues, Mandelson said, such as its own economic interests, its wider regional role and its hopes for increased south-south partnerships. It would take time to work these out "It would help if we all agree on the destination and move towards a way that serves the customs union. But that requires goodwill and give and take and recognition that the development needs of the union's most needy members must be paramount."

04.03.08

<http://www.tralac.org/scripts/content.php?id=7428>

\*An insightful analysis of the EC's SADC EPA negotiating strategy. Wallie Roux  
04.03.08

<http://www.newera.com.na/page.php?id=5959>

\*TRALAC asks how SADC will negotiate EPAs services issues

"The SADC EPA Trade Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner, Peter Mandelson met in Gaborone, Botswana yesterday 4 March 2008 to consider progress of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations. Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland initialled the Interim EPA and agreed to a second phase of the negotiations which will focus on services and investment, toward the conclusion of a full EPA by the end of 2008. Namibia initialled the Interim EPA but tabled several concerns, and elected not to participate in phase two of the negotiations. South Africa did not initial the interim agreement.

The countries that have initialled the Interim EPA have to start the process of implementation of the Trade in Goods aspects of the EPA. This member states should work with a view to applying this agreement from 1 July 2008 at the latest. This process requires careful preparation and coordinated action between the SADC states that have initialled this agreement.

Those countries that will negotiate services and investment need urgently to prepare for these negotiations, both in terms of substance as well as negotiating structures.

This leads to the following questions:

How will these countries identify the services sector to be liberalised; are they going to liberalise the same sector or will each country liberalise a different sector?

What plans are in place to meet the deadline of 31 December 2008?

How will these countries coordinate this negotiating process, in terms of substance, process and regional coordination?

The Investment Chapter also has to be negotiated before the end of this year. How will the specific investment concerns of the SADC states be identified, and be related to the SADC Finance and Investment Protocol, and in particular how will the 'technical assistance' promised by the EC for these negotiations and the implementation of this chapter be provided?"

03.03.08

<http://www.tralac.org/newsletter/04mar2008.html>

\*European Parliament Development Committee report. EEPA

Follow up of the Paris Declaration on Aid effectiveness and Exchange of views with Director-

General, EC DG DEV on the Commissions work programme and on ACP regional integration.

3 March 2008.

[http://www.eepa.be/wcm/dmdocuments/EP\\_DEVE%20030308.pdf](http://www.eepa.be/wcm/dmdocuments/EP_DEVE%20030308.pdf)

\*3 March. EP DEV meeting with Director-General EC DG DEV

Exchange of views with Stefano Manservigi, Director-General, DG DEV, European Commission

- Commission's Work Programme

- Regional integration

Monday 3 March 2008, 15.00 – 18.00

EEPA Report

[http://www.eepa.be/wcm/dmdocuments/EP\\_DEVE%20030308.pdf](http://www.eepa.be/wcm/dmdocuments/EP_DEVE%20030308.pdf)

\*Tourism treatment in the Caribbean EPA. CRNM

[http://www.crnw.org/documents/ACP\\_EU\\_EPA/epa\\_agreement/Tourism\\_Services\\_in\\_the\\_EPA\\_nr\\_20feb08.pdf](http://www.crnw.org/documents/ACP_EU_EPA/epa_agreement/Tourism_Services_in_the_EPA_nr_20feb08.pdf)

\*The Republic of Vanuatu has completed the domestic requirements to be able to trade under the terms and conditions of the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA).

29.02.08

<http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2008/vanuatu-ready-trade-under-picta.html>

\*Development financing in the Caribbean EPA needs clarity

29 February 29, 2008

<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20080229/business/business12.html>

\*The Inter Regional Coordinating Committee (IRCC) held its 14th Meeting in Nairobi Kenya from 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The meeting was called to discuss ongoing and future activities as they pertain to the cooperation efforts being undertaken for the welfare of the region. And First Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda who is also the Minister of the East African Community Honourable Eriya Kategaya said the 14th IRCC meeting should carefully map out solutions for the seemingly worrying feeling in the air concerning the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF and the EPAs. “We have to note that the crucial stage in the comprehensive EPA negotiations is about to commence and the critical question that arises is how these negotiations will be enabled and facilitated,” Honourable Kategaya said. He added that whilst the EU has pronounced that it will consider budgetary needs for negotiations and implementation of EPAs, such pronouncements, regrettably, is yet to be couched in the form of a binding commitment in terms of additional resources “Even where the Regional Organisations sign separate agreements, the main objective of the region is poverty reduction and development. Therefore as in the case of the tripartite meetings of COMESA, EACD and SADC, joint programming should continue and remain valid as reflected in the draft 10th EDF Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Regional Integration Programme,” Mr Mwencha told the delegates in Nairobi.

[http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp\\_resource\\_details&resource\\_id=46521&cat\\_id=6364](http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=46521&cat_id=6364)

\*Acting COMESA Secretary General Ambassador Nagla El-Hussainy has reiterated COMESA’s stand that the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union should be a complimentary tool to support the region in addressing the structural and key challenges of national, regional and global development.

Ambassador Hussainy was speaking in Lusaka on 28th February 2008 at the meeting for senior officials on EPAs from the ESA region. She reminded the participants that the region has consistently emphasized that EPAs should enhance development.

The COMESA Council of Ministers at its 24th meeting held recently stressed that the EPAs should address issues of supply side constraints, provision of additionality of resources and contribute to strengthening of regional integration. In this regard, Council had emphasized the need to maintain unity, solidarity and cohesion of the ESA region to

safeguard individual and collective interests. The COMESA Acting Secretary General noted that in the upcoming joint meeting with the EC, ESA should make the case for improving the ESA Interim EPA by building on the more favourable provision contained in those other regional agreements but also insist to review some of the contentious issues to enable other countries to consider signing the Interim Agreement. Ambassador Hussainy urged the ESA group to work harder, improve on their strategy and maintain and strengthen unity as they enter into the final phase of negotiations where the issues are more technical and complicated especially for trade in services and trade related issues.

29.02.08

[http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp\\_resource\\_details&resource\\_id=46522&cat\\_id=6364](http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=46522&cat_id=6364)

\*27-29 February. Trade ministers from least developed countries meet in Lesotho

<http://www.tralac.org/scripts/content.php?id=7380>

\*Africa failing to unite, problems securing adequate resources from the EU to fund the EPA negotiations.

“The Inter-Regional Coordinating Committee (IRCC) has admitted failure to unite its major markets in Africa to form a single continental market.”

During the 14th meeting of the IRCC in Nairobi, Erastus Mwencha, IRCC chairman and Secretary General for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), stated that the economic partnership agreement (EPA) would be discussed to help improve the cooperation of the African regional markets with the European Union (EU). “Africa is diverse, its cultures rich and different; we had promised to unite the markets ahead of this meeting but we have yet to reach that goal. We have not given up, we will keep trying”, he said.

He noted that regional markets in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) need to integrate and create a single market for the African continent so as to share the mutual objectives of eradicating poverty and promoting development in Africa.

Honorary Eriya Kategaya, First Deputy Premier and Minister of the East African Community (EAC) Affairs in Uganda and Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, said that Africa is experiencing difficulties in securing adequate resources from the EU to fund the EPA negotiations.

He argued that although the EU has promised to consider budgeting needs for the negotiation and implementation processes of the EPAs, the subject was yet to be raised in the form of binding commitments to additional resource allocation.

“Clearly, given the sensitivities and complexities of the EPA negotiations in the Partner States of our Configuration Groups, this budget allocation so far, is a far cry from the real needs on the ground”, he said.

28.02.08

<http://www.tralac.org/scripts/content.php?id=7381>

\*SADC seeks consensus ahead of EC Trade Commissioner meeting

SA has refused to sign an EPA because of the EU's demands for the liberalisation of services and concerns about implementation.

SA wants the entire EPA process to be reopened and negotiated afresh but this is unpalatable for countries that have already signed interim EPAs  
Botswana is apparently angered by SA's stance and is ready to break ranks with the customs union.

While SA has vilified the EU for strong-arm tactics, trade commentators are concerned it is holding the region to ransom by threatening to pull out of the customs union if SADC members do not agree to a renegotiation of the EPAs.

SA Foreign Minister criticised the EU for using the partnership agreement process for purposes beyond trade negotiations.

"They are using them to regain ground they think they have lost in their quest for hegemony in Africa. The panic button was pressed by Africa's relations with China, India and South American countries."

The EU had "suddenly realised" Africa could have economic relations with other nations. In the past, the EU was the dominant factor in Africa, Dlamini-Zuma said. SADC countries would try to form a coherent group "as we try to make the EU give us space to reconsider issues".

28.02.08

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200802280126.html>

\*EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson will today begin a five day, four country trip to Southern Africa that will include attend a meeting in Lesotho of trade Ministers from Least Developed Countries on the Doha Round of world trade talks. Mandelson will also visit South Africa, Botswana and Zambia where he will meet with leaders and representatives of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region for talks on the Economic Partnership Agreements currently being negotiated by the EU and these regions. He will meet, amongst others, President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Zambian Minister of Commerce Felix Mutati, Erastus Mwencha, Secretary General of COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), and Botswanan Minister for Trade and Industry Neo Moroka.

28.02.08

[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/pr280208\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/pr280208_en.htm)

\*Swazi trade official concedes signing EPA was a mistake

An officer from the foreign affairs and trade ministry's Trade Promotion Unit conceded that the Kingdom 'messed up' by initialling these together with other southern African states which were negotiating under the SADC-EPA bloc, including Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Angola and Namibia. South Africa, which was also part of the group, has still not signed any such agreement.

However, the officer also said Swaziland had no choice if it wished to benefit from the (650 million euro) European Development Fund (EDF).

A report prepared by Lynette Gitonga on the significance of EPAs in the WTO says regionally, EPAs may provide EC goods access into the wider ACP markets. She says at the WTO, EPAs appear to have compromised the potential development benefits of the Doha Round, given concluded provisions reverse some of the Doha negotiating positions of developing countries.

"These include EPA commitments even by least developed countries (LDCs), to reduce up to 80 percent of tariffs, to eliminate export taxes and other useful development tools," the report states.

Gitonga also says further negotiations with the EC, before the conclusion of the Doha Round, could further detract from development objectives of developing countries and their negotiating leverage at the WTO.

"It remains doubtful if the threshold for substantially all trade, even for LDCs, will be reviewed or whether additional flexibilities for developing countries under GATT Article XXIV will be permissible in the WTO negotiations, beyond that agreed upon in the EPAs," she notes.

28.02.08

[http://www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id\\_article=11327](http://www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id_article=11327)

\*Scheduled for April 15. Caribbean-EU Ministers to sign EPA and thereby giving it provisional application until fully ratified by both sides.

For the eminent EPA critics, the central point of calling for more debate before signing the EPA is that the EPA is a treaty that is legally binding, of indefinite duration, will be very difficult to amend once it is in force, covers a wide range of subject areas that have hitherto been within the jurisdiction of domestic or regional policy, and which few people know about and even less understand. While the development support aspects of the treaty are not legally binding. Would it not be more prudent to explore all possible avenues for reviewing and renegotiating the initialed text before it is cast in stone? They also note that several African countries have initialed only interim EPAs and have been given until the end of 2008 to complete negotiations with the EC.

28.02.08

<http://www.guardian.co.tt/bussguardian4.html>

\*South Africa Foreign Minister says EPA motivated by Chinese-Indian influence in Africa

In a presentation to a South African parliamentary committee, Foreign Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said the EU was motivated in part by fears of growing Chinese and Indian influence in Africa, a key supplier of natural resources.

"They are using them (the talks) to regain ground that they think they've lost in their quest for hegemony in Africa," Dlamini-Zuma told a trade and industry committee during a briefing on the EPAs.

27.02.08

<http://africa.reuters.com/top/news/usnBAN742613.html>

\*APE : la signature d'un accord intérimaire par la Côte d'Ivoire ne peut pas bloquer le processus d'intégration, selon un officiel de l'UEMOA

APS - Le Commissaire chargé des politiques économiques et de la fiscalité intérieure de l'Union économique et monétaire ouest africaine (UEMOA) Elhadj Abdou Sakho a déclaré, mercredi à Dakar, que la conclusion d'un accord intérimaire entre la Côte d'Ivoire et l'Union européenne (UE) dans le cadre des Accords de partenariat économique ne devrait pas bloquer le processus d'intégration en œuvre dans cette partie du continent africain.

“Je ne pense pas que la signature de l’Accord de partenariat économique (APE) entre la Côte d’Ivoire et l’Union européenne (UE) puisse provoquer un blocage du processus d’intégration de l’Union économique et monétaire ouest africaine (UEMOA), puisque les chefs d’Etat nous ont demandé de faire en sorte que la signature d’un accord global puisse intégrer les engagements qui ont été pris par la Côte d’Ivoire, notamment en matière d’accès aux marchés”, a-t-il soutenu dans un entretien accordé à un reporter de l’APS.

“La Côte d’Ivoire va sans doute solliciter un moratoire avant le début de son processus de démantèlement tarifaire. Et ce moratoire devrait pouvoir très facilement être intégré dans le délai que nous nous sommes fixés pour parvenir avec l’Union européenne à un APE global”, a-t-il indiqué.

“La remarque est également la même pour ce qui est de l’APE signé avec le Ghana”, a fait valoir Elhadj Abdou Sakho, interrogé en marge de la réunion technique des Comités nationaux de politique économique (CNPE) qui s’est tenue mercredi à Dakar. S’agissant de la déclaration du président de l’Assemblée nationale ivoirienne Mamadou Koulibaly, qui a laissé entendre que son pays pourrait créer sa propre monnaie, le Commissaire chargé des politiques économiques et de la fiscalité intérieure de l’UEMOA a assuré que “pour le moment, il n’y a pas du tout de crainte à nourrir sur ce point”.

“Je ne crois pas”, a-t-il dit, parlant de la perspective de voir la Côte d’Ivoire créer sa propre monnaie. “C’est un citoyen de l’Union qui a exprimé un point de vue. Pour le moment, il n’y a pas du tout de crainte à nourrir sur ce point”, a-t-il ajouté.

“La zone franc demeure plus que jamais solide. Je vous donne rendez-vous d’ailleurs à la prochaine réunion du Conseil des ministres de la zone franc prévue en début avril prochain où cette question sera évoquée”, a-t-il insisté, avant d’ajouter que cela “n’est pas encore au centre des préoccupations des ministres chargés des questions économiques de la zone”.

27.02.08

<http://www.africanglobalnews.com/article3098.html>

\*Les députés guinéens se prononcent contre les Accords de Partenariat Economique D’entrée de jeu dans la déclaration, les députés lancent cet avertissement :

"Les perspectives qui se profilent à l'horizon à travers les APE sont lourdes de conséquences. En tant que représentant du peuple de Guinée, et défenseurs farouches de l'unité, de la solidarité et de l'intégration de notre région, et au delà du continent africain, nous ne pouvons rester insensibles aux menaces qui frappent à nos portes et qui pourraient compromettre durablement, sinon définitivement, les efforts de nos peuples pour la croissance, la lutte contre la pauvreté et le développement".

Plus loin dans la déclaration, les élus du peuple enfoncent le clou par ces termes :

"L' APE que nous propose l'Europe est en flagrante contradiction avec les objectifs de lutte contre la pauvreté et d'intégration sous-régionale affichés dans l'Accord de Cotonou".

A en croire les députés, " ces accords perpétueront, selon toutes les études rigoureuses, la dépendance de nos économies aux seules matières premières et détruiront nos industries vulnérables, tout en tuant dans l'œuf tout espoir d'industrialisation future.

Ils soumettront nos agricultures et nos agriculteurs à une longue agonie et porteront e façon irréversible atteinte à notre souveraineté alimentaire. Ces accords appauvriront

enfin nos Etats qui ne pourront plus répondre aux besoins les plus élémentaires de nos peuples et généreront ainsi un terreau fertile pour l'éclosion de conflits et d'instabilité politique permanente".

Dans la déclaration, les parlementaires guinéens invitent les décideurs ouest africains à ne pas renouveler ces accords. Ils préconisent, pour le moment, l'intégration sous-régionale : "Pour nous, l'alternative se situe dans l'intégration sous-régionale dont la réalisation devrait être mesurée par la mise en oeuvre effective des instruments, des institutions, des stratégies et des politiques sectorielles communes qui lèveraient définitivement les entraves au renforcement du commerce intra-régional et intra-africain."

27.02.08

<http://www.kababachir.com/autresinfosdetails.php?recordID=9320>

\*Caribbean Principal Negotiator says EPA is not a panacea, but the best trade pact at this time

DIRECTOR GENERAL of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) and principal negotiator of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), Ambassador Dr Richard Bernal, said the EPA is not a panacea, but represented the best trade pact the region could enter into at this time.

In a direct response to some detractors of the EPA, He added: "There was no gun to the head. We wanted an agreement, we needed an agreement, and we negotiated successfully and got an agreement. We didn't do it out of fear, we did some unprecedented things, the Europeans did not hand us a template and say sign here. For the first time in the history of this region, we wrote our own economic partnership agreement, that is what we used to work with the European Union."

The success of the EPA is going to depend on how the Cariforum states implement it, he added.

27.02.08

<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20080227/news/news6.html>

\*Caribbean Ministers, Heads discussing EPAs.

**EPA TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT KEY COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

(CARICOM Secretariat, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana) A series of key meetings of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), including the Nineteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Heads of Government in Nassau, The Bahamas, will be held within the next ten days.

Among them is the Meeting of the Reflections Group on the CARIFORUM/EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) that was initialed last December in Barbados.

The Reflections Group will meet in Kingston, Jamaica on 28-29 February 2008.

The Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) had taken a decision last year that an independent review be undertaken of the EPA negotiations. COTED also mandated that the outcome be considered by a Reflections Group comprising Senior Officials of Member States, the CARICOM and OECS Secretariats, the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM), and stakeholders from across the Community. The meeting is expected to review CARICOM's preparation for, its approach to and its conduct of negotiations of the EPA, and assess the development dimension of the Agreement.

The Twenty-Fourth Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) which will be held in the Bahamas on March 5 2008 will consider the report of the Meeting of the Reflections Group. At the Special COTED meeting there will be a presentation of the EPA following the completion of a review by legal minds.

Also on the agenda of that meeting are discussions on 'Poverty and the rising cost of living' as well as an update on, and outlook for the multilateral trade negotiations under the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The following day, the Twelfth Meeting of the Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) will be convened, also in the Bahamas. That forum will also consider the EPA with regard to the financial and development implications of the Agreement. Preparations for the CARICOM Single Economy will also be considered with specific reference to key indicators including a report on the performance and convergence of CARICOM economies.

At the COFAP meeting, the status of the proposed Regional Development Agency and of the CARICOM Development Fund will be examined.

Among the items high on the agenda of the Nineteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting on 7 and 8 March are Functional Cooperation; Presentations by Lead Heads of Government on Human Resource Development, Health and HIV and AIDS, the CSME, Free Movement of Skills, Agriculture, Tourism, Crime and Security, and Developments related to the Conduct of External Trade Negotiations; and Developments related to Youth and Culture. The Inter-Sessional Meeting will be held at The Sheraton Resort, Cable Beach in Nassau. 27.02.08

[http://www.caricom.org/jsp/pressreleases/pres42\\_08.jsp](http://www.caricom.org/jsp/pressreleases/pres42_08.jsp)

\*Eminent Caribbeans call on Trade Ministers to re-negotiate EPA

[Renegotiate the EPA, Havelock Brewster, Norman Girvan and Vaughan Lewis \(3/03/08\)](#)

The following memorandum, which was submitted for the consideration of the Reflections Group of the Caricom Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on 27 February 2008, is now being given wider circulation. After listing 19 areas of concern in the EPA, the memorandum suggests that there may still be a "window of opportunity" to re-negotiate the agreement, which has not yet been signed and provisionally applied, and sets out a possible course of action for Caricom.

<http://www.normangirvan.info/renegotiate-the-epa-havelock-brewster-norman-girvan-and-vaughan-lewis-30308/>

\*Paul Kruger, a Tralac Researcher, comments on where the SADC region stands with respect to the second phase of the negotiations to conclude a comprehensive EPA.

"Tralac hosted, with the European Commission, a workshop last week focusing on trade in services and investment in the context of the SADC EPA. This provided a useful opportunity to take stock of where the SADC region stands with respect to the second phase of the negotiations to conclude a comprehensive EPA. The framework for this phase is contained in Article 67 of the SADC IEPA; which sets out the agenda and procedure for these negotiations.

The SADC EPA group faces two immediate challenges: i) Each participating Member State must complete the liberalization schedule for one services sector; and ii) the parties

must negotiate an Investment Chapter, taking into account the relevant provisions of the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment. This must be done no later than 31 December 2008. This process is complicated by uncertainty regarding the precise configuration of SADC EPA Member States participating in the services negotiations; South Africa seems to have opted out and Namibia has added reservations to its initialing of the text of the Interim EPA last December. SADC has achieved very little in terms of regional arrangements in services and in SACU this area has not been addressed at all. This leaves the region rather ill prepared.

This leads to the following questions:

Which services sectors will be selected by the participating SADC EPA States? Will these countries follow a harmonized approach and liberalise the same sector or will each country opt for a separate sector? If they do the latter, how will the regional integration dimension be accommodated?

What plans are in place to meet the deadline of 31 December 2008?

What will be the impact of GATS Article V? It requires regional trade agreements in services to have 'substantial sectoral coverage'.

How can EPA services liberalization be linked to the regional dimension if the SADC Services Protocol is still in its infancy?"

26.02.08

<http://www.tralac.org/newsletter/26feb2008.html>

\*EU Aims to negotiate comprehensive EPAs with all African and Pacific countries  
Rope in African States Resisting EPAs

Individual EPAs protecting various sensitive products. It will be challenging to harmonise the different schedules and convert the interim agreements into full EPAs at the regional level.

they have clauses for accession.

“For example, in West Africa, where only Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana have initialled an interim agreement, they want the outstanding countries in that region to accede to this agreement. The interim agreements also have rendezvous clauses which are commitments to further negotiations that include the services and trade related issues.

“They are going to push as hard as they can to make those countries that signed the interim agreements live up to these rendezvous clauses, and those that have not signed any agreement to do so.”

According to Maes, some rendezvous clauses, however, are more aggressive than others. In the Southern African interim EPA, countries had agreed to the liberalisation of one service sector the moment the full EPA is signed and that they would open up other services sectors in the following three years. Other agreements are less specific.

26.02.08

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=41348>

\*EU aiming to conclude comprehensive EPA agreements in the next one to three years  
The European Union (EU) has an ambitious agenda for the economic partnership agreement (EPA) negotiations. It is pushing for the conclusion of full agreements in the next one to three years, covering everything from services to “trade-related” issues such as investment, competition and government procurement.

26.02.08

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=41347>

\*The European Union (EU) is concerned about competing with China for access to resources and markets in Africa, which partly explains its drive to hook African states into the trade deals called economic partnership agreements (EPAs).

According to Dr Rob Davies, South Africa's deputy minister of trade and industry, the EU is afraid that it will lose its foothold on the African continent and wants to prevent this at all cost.

"Over the past years, the trade between South Africa and Asia has grown tremendously while the trade with Europe has decreased," Davies said at a special EPA review meeting of the Africa Trade Network held in Cape Town, South Africa, last week (Feb. 20 -22).

The network has civil society organisations from across the continent as members. Instead of focusing on the EU as their most important trade partner, African nations should aim at nurturing and extending their trade relationships with emerging economic powers such as China and India, said Davies.

"China and India, due to their industrialisation, offer developing countries higher prices for natural resources. They do not force us into lowering our tariffs, contrary to Europe," he stated.

"We have got to keep working on those relationships, as they are very important to our economies. India and China offer developing countries better deals than the options provided by the old colonial masters. It is not utopia, but some serious opportunities exist in China and India. We should take them in consideration."

According to the EU, the EPAs are development tools designed to assist in the integration of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries into the world economy while promoting their sustainable development and contributing to poverty eradication.

"There is a huge gap between what Europe says its intentions are and the true picture," Davies told the meeting, which drew various delegates from African and international civil society organisations as well as several African trade officials

"Brussels claims that the EPAs will promote integration and development in the region and that it has no mercantilist intentions with the EPAs. This is not the case. Firstly, the ACP region has been divided into six different configurations. This does not contribute to unity.

"In addition, within each group, some countries have initialled interim EPAs while others have refused. This does not contribute to unity within the region either," Davies pointed out.

One of the major objections regarding the agreements is the way the EU has forced ACP states to sign by threatening that raised tariffs would kick in at the end of 2007. Namibia is one example of this.

"Namibia signed under protest. The country was put under a tremendous amount of pressure by Brussels," explained Davies. "If Windhoek refused the EU offer, its beef sector -- which plays a crucial role in its export economy -- would have received a big blow as a result of tariff increases."

The non-discrimination clause or "most favoured nation" clause is also a cause of protest. According to the clause, countries that have signed an EPA are not allowed to discriminate against the EU. "According to this clause, tariffs on EU products cannot be

higher than the levies imposed on goods from developing countries," said Davies.  
"EPAs thus prevent other developing countries from having an advantage in bringing their goods on the markets of developing nations."

26.02.08

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=41346>

\*EU-West Africa EPA negotiations to be held 4-5 March.

A ce propos, M. Tincani indique que de nouvelles négociations auront lieu les 04 et 05 mars prochains.

26.02.08

<http://www.lefaso.net/spip.php?article25821&rubrique62>

\*Uncertainty over trade agreement threatens SACU

26.02.08

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/topstories.aspx?ID=BD4A713519>

and

<http://www.tralac.org/scripts/content.php?id=7371>

\*Globalisation boosts jobs in advanced economies. European Economic Advisory Group Increased trade, outsourcing and offshoring do not create unemployment but boost the number of jobs in advanced economies, a study of European labour markets says The European Economic Advisory Group, a consortium of European academics organised by the Munich-based Ifo Institute

26.05.08

<http://www.cesifo-group.de/portal/page/portal/ifoHome/B-politik/70eeagreport>

FT summary

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0e70c160-e3c5-11dc-8799-0000779fd2ac.html>

\*Africa Trade Network meeting discussed EPAs

special review meeting of the Africa Trade Network (ATN) that was held last week (Feb. 20 - 22).

"The EU claims that the purpose of the agreements is to help and develop the region. This is not true. The agreements are about Europe's wellbeing," added Tetteh Hormeku of the African branch of the Third World Network, a non-profit international network of organizations involved in various development issues.

Dr. Rob Davies, South Africa's deputy minister of trade and industry, agreed, saying that there is a huge gap between what is claimed to be the EU's intention with the EPAs -- a better future for the ACP region -- and the real picture.

He pointed out that the regional unity of the ACP states had already been undermined by the arbitrary division of the ACP into six blocs.

Adopted global call for action against EPAs (obtain)

25.02.08

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=41326>

and

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200802251642.html>

\*Première réunion du UEMOA-CEDEAO Comité de Pilotage  
Elargi du Programme Indicatif Régional  
Première réunion du Comité de Pilotage élargi du Programme Indicatif Régional  
(PIR) 9ème FED/UEMOA/CEDEAO  
25.02.08  
<http://www.uemoa.int/BullInfo/Bull193d.pdf>

\*EC calls for African states to speed up EPA negotiation or face trade disruptions  
Mr Stefano Manservigi the European Commission director general for Development and  
Relations with Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States , says African states must speed up  
the negotiation process or else they could face disruptions in 2009.  
25.02.08  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200802251808.html?viewall=1>

\*SACU likely to split up  
25.02.08  
It is understood that EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson is to meet President  
Thabo Mbeki this week to discuss SA's position on the EPA. Mbeki, in his state of the  
nation address this month, singled out the EPA and regional integration as priorities this  
year, but observers said these commitments were not reflected on the ground.  
At a SADC ministerial meeting in Botswana last week, SA is said to have tabled 32  
pages of concerns about the EPA, and is said to be calling for the EPA to be negotiated  
afresh.  
The demand would be unpalatable to the EU and to Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland ,  
which are set for a second phase of talks to thrash out terms for the liberalisation of  
services.  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200802250178.html>

\*Africa Trade Network Call for International Action Against EPAs  
25.02.08  
<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=41325>

\*Caribbean private sector seeking EPA information and effective EU support  
Those I spoke with noted that EC funding for the private sector is virtually inaccessible,  
the European Development Fund has bureaucratic processes worse than any in the  
Caribbean, and that its support seemed to exist largely to fund European consultants. My  
interlocutors' concern was that even modest levels of support could not be delivered by  
the European system in the time-scale in which change has to occur, not least because it  
was always accompanied by rules that were at odds with individual corporate success.  
As a consequence there was a deep cynicism about the real meaning of the EPA and  
about Europe and a sense that Caribbean companies would have to face the full force of  
competition by diverting their own resources.  
24.02.08  
[http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article\\_sunday\\_features?id=56539756](http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_sunday_features?id=56539756)

\*EPAs-Africa-AU Writes Barroso for EPA HofG meeting 220208.doc

[http://groups.google.com/group/misc.activism.progressive/browse\\_thread/thread/b2edda0d0cb8b4cc/921b8fc27aa1d362?hl=en&q=ACP+EU+Trade#921b8fc27aa1d362](http://groups.google.com/group/misc.activism.progressive/browse_thread/thread/b2edda0d0cb8b4cc/921b8fc27aa1d362?hl=en&q=ACP+EU+Trade#921b8fc27aa1d362)

\*Call for International Action Against EPAs . Africa Trade Network  
22.02.08

[http://www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id\\_article=11302](http://www.bilaterals.org/article.php3?id_article=11302)

\*The CARIFORUM EPA has been published by the EU Commission on its website  
The website contains the text of the agreement, the Rules of Origin Protocol and an annex, but not yet the market access schedules for goods, services and investment.

22.02.08

[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/pr220208\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/pr220208_en.htm)

\*Summary and analysis of the ideological and propaganda battle on Caribbean EPAs  
A major ideological and propaganda battle is currently raging within and across the Caribbean concerning the merits and demerits of the recently negotiated Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between CARIFORUM and the European Union. The battle is being waged on two fronts, one related to process and the other to what was won or lost at the negotiation table. Was the Agreement the best and only development game in town, as some claim, or a sell out by Caribbean negotiators and the governments who briefed them or failed to do so responsibly? There is a great deal of misinformation being strewn about, and it is difficult for outsiders to really know what is fact and what is really fiction.

22.02.08

[http://www.trinidadexpress.com/index.pl/article\\_opinion?id=161283437](http://www.trinidadexpress.com/index.pl/article_opinion?id=161283437)

\*SADC Workshop on Services and Investment in EPA Negotiations  
Cape Town, South Africa, 20-22 February 2008  
TRALAC report

<http://epa.tralac.org/scripts/content.php?id=7429>

\*SADC Workshop on Services and Investment in EPA Negotiations  
Cape Town, South Africa, 20-22 February 2008  
Presentations

[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/sem220208\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/sem220208_en.htm)

\*For EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA  
Liberalising Services: A South African Experience

Directorate: Trade in Services

Wamkele Keabetswe Mene

Director: Trade in Services

22 February 2008

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137987.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137987.pdf)

\*Services and development

Lluís Navarro

20th February 2008

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137989.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137989.pdf)

\*EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA. Agenda 20-22.02

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137991.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137991.pdf)

\*Coverage in Services Agreements. TRALAC

For EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137978.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137978.pdf)

\*Services in EPAs. A Southern Africa Business Perspective

For EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137980.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137980.pdf)

\*THE INVESTMENT AND GROWTH/DEVELOPMENT NEXUS. TRALAC

For EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137982.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137982.pdf)

\*Southern Africa Services Exports. Sustainable Commerce Consultants

For EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137983.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137983.pdf)

\*Services in the SADC EPA. British Telecom

For EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137981.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137981.pdf)

\*Negotiating Services in a SADC EPA. TRALAC

For EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137979.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137979.pdf)

\*EU support for EPA implementation and regional integration agenda on services and investment

EC DG Development

For EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137990.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137990.pdf)

\*PRESENTATION ON LIBERALISATION OF SERVICES (LESOTHO'S EXPERIENCE)

For EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137986.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137986.pdf)

\*"What Ambitions for the EPA on Services & Investment - The European private sector's views"

Pascal Kerneis, Managing Director

ESF (European Services Forum)

For EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA  
[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137985.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137985.pdf)

\*“Business Perspective / Ambitions – The EU views”. European Services Forum  
For EC-TRALAC Workshop on Trade in Services and Investment in EPA  
[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc\\_137984.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/february/tradoc_137984.pdf)

\*Trade Related Issues in the Caribbean EPA. CRNM  
[http://www.crn.org/documents/ACP\\_EU\\_EPA/epa\\_agreement/EPA\\_%20Trade\\_Related\\_Issues.pdf](http://www.crn.org/documents/ACP_EU_EPA/epa_agreement/EPA_%20Trade_Related_Issues.pdf)

\*Caribbean EPA. Treatment of Fisheries. CRNM  
[http://www.crn.org/documents/ACP\\_EU\\_EPA/epa\\_agreement/Brief\\_EPA\\_fisheries.pdf](http://www.crn.org/documents/ACP_EU_EPA/epa_agreement/Brief_EPA_fisheries.pdf)

\*See new ECOWAS EPA website <http://www.ecowas.int/>

\*Report of West Africa Ministerial Meeting on EPAs  
NEGOCIATIONS DE L'ACCORD DE PARTENARIAT ECONOMIQUE ENTRE  
L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST ET L'UNION EUROPEENNE  
Réunion Extraordinaire du Comité Ministériel de Suivi des Négociations APE  
Nouakchott, le 21 février 2008  
[http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library\\_detail.php?library\\_detail\\_id=4204](http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library_detail.php?library_detail_id=4204)

\*Caribbean EPA requires private sector growth, competitiveness and EU support  
This is not to suggest that criticism of the thrust of the EPA is not valid or that there should not be a full review of whether the negotiations met their political mandate. Rather it is to argue that personal enmities, the inter-regional institutional rivalries and the sometimes over intense sense of Caribbean nationalism are in danger of distracting public sector attention from why the EPA trade negotiations had to take place and the pressing matter of implementation.  
The EPA requires governments and regional institutions to develop rapidly plans to encourage private sector growth and competitiveness if the region is to take advantage of what is on offer. It also requires Europe to put the same political muscle that it used to force through the agreement into defining and delivering the development assistance it has boasted about.  
Put another way, private sector-led development, more open markets, a welcome for foreign capital, and encouraging joint ventures requires, as Prime Minister Golding suggests, the confidence to walk towards the future.

17.02.08

[http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article\\_sunday\\_features?id=56539276](http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_sunday_features?id=56539276)

\*Trade Negotiations and Pro-poor Services Reforms in Africa Meeting. ILEAP  
Kampala, Uganda  
4-8 February 2008

The workshop of 4-8 February 2008 in Kampala (Uganda) marks the start of a process aimed at facilitating a number of medium-term objectives on services negotiations in 2008. The primary objective of this process is to assist African stakeholders identify their potential offensive and defensive interests in selected services sectors and modes of supply and translate these into well-informed negotiating positions. In other words, it aims to explore mechanisms for pursuing a pro-poor reform of services regimes in Africa and the effective participation of African countries in the EPA and WTO services negotiations. Key outputs expected from this process include sectoral studies providing an overview of current reforms and the broader regulatory framework in selected sectors for the different regions, as well as in-depth regional analytical studies (drawing on the sectoral studies) to guide the formulation of negotiations positions.

[http://www.ileap-jeicp.org/programmes/meetings\\_workshops/Kampala\\_feb08.html](http://www.ileap-jeicp.org/programmes/meetings_workshops/Kampala_feb08.html)

\*First All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme Newsletter outlining programme and possibilities

We are pleased to bring to you this first issue of the “All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme” Newsletter. This is the opportunity to

-introduce readers to this new EU-funded programme and to Members of our Steering Committee

-provide details on the major consultations being planned in the various ACP regions and

-give some insights into the “Trade Opportunity Scans” being run by programme partners  
02.08

<http://www.euacpcommodities.eu/files/NEWSLETTER1%20eng.pdf>

\*Buying Power. Aid, Governance and Public Procurement. Christian Aid

It sounds very administrative and technical, but reform of government procurement – the rules that guide government purchasing of goods, works and services – is one of the most controversial aspects of the good governance agenda. Donors have two goals: greater accountability and transparency, which is limited because of its reliance on a one-size-fits-all approach; and greater efficiency, which is narrowly defined as value for money to be secured through open competition. This not only restricts the flexibility of developing country governments to use procurement as a policy tool for development, it can also have significant consequences for local firms that rely on government contracts.

02.08

<http://www.futureofaid.net/files/Buying%20Power.pdf>

\*The February 2008 issue of ICTSD's BRIDGES Review is now available at:

<http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/index.htm>

\*Aid for Trade and Development. ILEAP

Following in the wake of the World Trade Organization's engagement with Aid for Trade, this book brings together a range of perspectives around this emerging issue. The collection of articles in this volume presents many of the ideas elaborated through research conducted by International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP) since 2005 and is intended to provide a basis for further study. Since many of the contributions on aid for trade to date have come from the North, the book looks to deepen

the debate by forwarding voices and experiences from the South. The book traces the evolution of Aid for Trade from its beginnings and examines the global architecture, modalities, and costs associated with its implementation. Drawing on lessons from national and regional experiences, this book further explores ways in which Aid for Trade can both move forward and become a real tool for poverty reduction in beneficiary countries.

[http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library\\_detail.php?library\\_detail\\_id=4217](http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library_detail.php?library_detail_id=4217)

\*EC DG Trade commissioned EPA impact study covering all ACP regions  
AN IMPACT STUDY OF THE EU-ACP ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP  
AGREEMENTS (EPAS) IN THE SIX ACP REGIONS  
Final Report – January 2008

This report has been prepared by

Lionel FONTAGNE (CEPII – UNIVERSITE DE PARIS I),  
Cristina MITARITONNA (CEPII – UNIVERSITE BOCCONI),  
David LABORDE (CIREM – UNIVERSITE DE PAU)

This report has been prepared at the request of the Chief Economist Unit of DG Trade. Study intends to present a very detailed analysis of the trade-related aspects of EPAs negotiations. They use a dynamic partial equilibrium model at the HS6 level  
01.08

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/march/tradoc\\_138081.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/march/tradoc_138081.pdf)

\*The link between EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and Institutional Reforms

Final Report submitted to DG Trade (European Commission)

BY

Oliver Morrissey, Chris Milner, Rod Falvey, Evious Zgovu  
School of Economics, University of Nottingham  
Annamaria La Chimia

School of Law, University of Nottingham

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are essentially about trade policy, and specifically eliminating tariffs on ‘substantially all trade’ (for ACP countries this is likely to mean removing tariffs on some 80% of imports from the EU within about ten years of signing an EPA). However, given that the process involves integration, a number of other areas for policy reform may be relevant for EPA negotiations, especially to increase the opportunities for ACP countries to benefit from enhanced trade opportunities. Four such areas are addressed in this Report: trade facilitation, measures and reforms to support investment, competition policy and government procurement. There is considerable evidence that reforms in each of these areas offers potential economic benefits. However, it does not follow that it is necessarily desirable to include provisions or commitments relating to each area in international agreements, whether the WTO or EPAs. In principle, the potential gains can be realised through domestic reforms alone (perhaps with external advice, technical and financial support). A government may be willing to implement reforms in any of these areas yet be unwilling to include specific commitments in an international agreement.

05.07

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/march/tradoc\\_138082.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/march/tradoc_138082.pdf)

### **General Trade-WTO Issues**

\*EU GSP Working Party discusses reform of rules of origin. Agenda  
GSP Working Party

Date: Monday 10 March 2008 at 10:00 (morning only)

Venue: COUNCIL

JUSTUS LIPSIUS BUILDING

Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 BRUSSELS

1. Reform of Preferential Rules of Origin

- Information by the Commission

2. Proposal for a Council Regulation applying a scheme of generalized tariff preferences for the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011 and amending Regulations (EC) No 552/97, No 1933/2006 and Commission Regulations (EC) No 964/2007 and No 1100/2006

a. Graduation - Article 13 and Annex I

b. GSP+ - Articles 8 and 9

c. Other outstanding issues

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/cm00/cm00870.en08.pdf>

\*BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest - Vol. 12, Number 8 5 March 2008

<http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/index.htm>

\*EC DG Trade Market Access Newsletter 29.02.08

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/march/tradoc\\_138113.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/march/tradoc_138113.pdf)

\*EC Trade Commissioner warns Doha failure will hurt the poorest

Mandelson warns Doha failure will hurt the poorest

Lesotho, 29 February 2008

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said that the Doha Round of world trade talks are now "facing a high risk of failure" unless negotiators can restore balance to the different strands of the negotiation and close a deal before a change of US President made negotiating a deal difficult.

Speaking to Trade Ministers from Least Developed Countries in Lesotho, Mandelson said that the poorest had the most to lose if the concessions already on table in the Doha Round - which include a "paradigm shift" in global farm subsidies - were lost.

Committing the EU to a constructive role in the endgame, Mandelson said: "We will not ask for more than others can do. But nor can we settle for less than what others can afford".

[http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/pr290208\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/pr290208_en.htm)

\*BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest - Vol. 12, Number 7 27 February 2008

<http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/index.htm>

\*Globalization and Europe: Prospering in the New Whirled Order. Center for Transatlantic Relations

This book seeks to demonstrate how economic globalization has affected Europe and how well European countries are positioned to capitalize on economic globalization's gains while minimizing its pains. In this volume, we focus primarily on economic globalization, because we share Martin Wolf's view that it is not just important in itself; since the end of the Cold War it is driving many other elements of globalization. Economic globalization, in turn, is being driven by the evolution of a mutually reinforcing dynamic

<http://www.amchameu.be/Pubs/globalizationeuropeFINAL.pdf>

\*Aid for Trade and Development. ILEAP

Following in the wake of the World Trade Organization's engagement with Aid for Trade, this book brings together a range of perspectives around this emerging issue. The collection of articles in this volume presents many of the ideas elaborated through research conducted by International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP) since 2005 and is intended to provide a basis for further study. Since many of the contributions on aid for trade to date have come from the North, the book looks to deepen the debate by forwarding voices and experiences from the South. The book traces the evolution of Aid for Trade from its beginnings and examines the global architecture, modalities, and costs associated with its implementation. Drawing on lessons from national and regional experiences, this book further explores ways in which Aid for Trade can both move forward and become a real tool for poverty reduction in beneficiary countries.

[http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library\\_detail.php?library\\_detail\\_id=4217](http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library_detail.php?library_detail_id=4217)

\*Agriculture and the WTO in Africa. Understand to Act. GRET

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) defines rules on the international trade in goods and services, and these rules have consequences for national policies. An arena for decision that claims to be democratic, the WTO is an arena where countries with different socioeconomic and political weights and diverging interests confront each other. African countries have always struggled to participate fully in this organisation because they are unable to influence its decisions, running the risk of not having their concerns heard and having inadequate multilateral rules on public policy elaboration imposed upon them.

They have many obstacles before them: in addition to their under-representation at WTO headquarters because of insufficient economic and human resources, there is the complexity of WTO bodies, rules and procedures, and the difficulty understanding the stakes behind development choices.

The purpose of this book is to provide guidance in understanding how international trade institutions and agreements operate. Its aim is to provide those in charge of civil society organisations in sub-Saharan Africa with tools and references to better understand the stakes behind, and means for, their participation in world trade.

Organised around descriptive and factual texts, this work contains many definitions and is illustrated by concrete experiences that facilitate reading.

[http://www.gret.org/publications/ouvrages/infoomc/index\\_en.html](http://www.gret.org/publications/ouvrages/infoomc/index_en.html)

\*Aid for Trade : Cool Aid or Kool-Aid?

G-24 Discussion Paper Series No. 48, November 2007, UNCTAD

Aid for Trade has been postulated as a complement to trade reforms, including within the context of WTO negotiations, helping developing countries to implement commitments, in coping with adjustment to policy shocks, or generating supply-side capacities. Aid for trade is also seen as making a useful contribution to achieving the MDGs, in particular under Goal 8. In the recent WTO context, aid for trade may be seen as helping to overcome developing countries' concerns about the cost of implementation as well as some past negative experiences of trade reforms, so that any new conditionalities would be viewed with some trepidation.

A sharp stepping up of funds seems to be needed, according to OECD, but a key question is

whether these will indeed be new funds, as promised at recent G8 meetings, or simply a redistribution of existing funds? The question also arises whether aid for trade only refers to

ODA or also to loans, special and differential treatment and technical assistance. The possibility of new conditionalities is of some concern to the developing countries, and some authors have said that aid for trade should not be subject to the usual macroeconomic or political conditionality.

There is general agreement on the need for aid effectiveness and some indications of the relative importance of support for trade-related infrastructure. Most organizations have taken a fairly wide view of the kinds of activity that would be covered by aid for trade, but OECD seems to be opposed to the use of ODA to help countries cope with the major macroeconomic and microeconomic adjustments associated with trade reforms, which it considers should continue to be supported by World Bank-IMF activities. A number of donors favour general budget support, allowing the developing countries to determine their own needs and priorities, but an aid for trade programme may tie them to much more specific projects. Some have argued that the private sector should not only be consulted on what might be covered but even be direct beneficiaries.

While LDCs would undoubtedly benefit, many of the world's poor are in other low-income

countries that may expect to have to rely to an increasing extent on assistance targeted to specific projects favouring the poor or other particular interests of donors.

As to how aid for trade would be administered, the proposal for a stand-alone Global Trade

Facility has garnered only limited support. An option might be the establishment of consolidated mechanism for funding, regrouping existing, separate funding mechanisms to provide a coordinated response to country-specific needs and requests for aid for trade. Certainly, there is a need for better coordination of donor activities, and, despite its hesitant start and limited resources, the IF model – if not the IF itself with its limited resources – now seems to be regarded as a suitable framework with respect to governance structure, involvement of relevant agencies and management of funds. On political oversight, WTO, which has limited experience of development assistance, has already established a monitoring and annual review mechanism.

Finally, aid for trade is not an integral part of the current WTO negotiations. However, in the light of experiences in implementing the results of the Uruguay Round and unilateral trade reform programmes, countries that may suffer further adjustment shocks from negotiations need to be assured of support from the international community. It would be unfortunate if the WTO were to repeat the process at the end of the Uruguay Round of agreeing on deal without any attempt to assess either the costs of implementation in advance or how it will be paid for.

[http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library\\_detail.php?library\\_detail\\_id=4212](http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library_detail.php?library_detail_id=4212)

\*Why doesn't Regional Integration Improve Income Convergence in Africa?

African Trade Policy Center

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

This paper investigates why regional integration does not improve income convergence in Africa, despite the common goal of more open and freer trade. Based on empirical analysis using African countries data, the paper presents the evidence that there has been little progress in income convergence in Africa. The paper shows that despite the importance of regional integration there has been limited progress and prospects of the African integration process are not as promising as would be expected for such an important pillar in Africa's development agenda.

11.07

[http://www.afdb.org/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/ADB\\_ADMIN\\_PG/DOCUMENTS/AEC/REGIONAL%20INTEGRATION%20AND%20INCOME%20CONVERGENCE%20PAPER%2019OCT07.PDF](http://www.afdb.org/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/ADB_ADMIN_PG/DOCUMENTS/AEC/REGIONAL%20INTEGRATION%20AND%20INCOME%20CONVERGENCE%20PAPER%2019OCT07.PDF)

Summary

<http://www.tralac.org/scripts/content.php?id=7379>

\*Supply-side factors determine exports in East Asia

Supply-side factors becoming more important in determining exports in East Asia than exchange rates due to vertically integrated production

<http://www.eldis.org/go/display&type=Document&id=35533>

### **Non-State Actors, Local Governments, Parliaments**

\*25-27 June 3<sup>rd</sup> Civil Society Forum Brussels

\*The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) are combining their efforts to meet the challenges that face local governments in the Pacific region.

In acknowledgment of the important role of local government in achieving shared goals, the two regional organisations have decided to enter into a formal cooperation agreement.

03.03.08

<http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2008/forum-commonwealth-work-together-on-local-government.html>

\*EU support to civil society – a new financial facility under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

05.03.08

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/141&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

\*EU audits in 2008 include investment projects in structural measures, the application of the Binding Tariff Information system, The EU Solidarity Fund, Rehabilitation aid in areas affected by natural catastrophes, The instrument for structural policies for preaccession (ISPA)

26.02.08

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=ECA/08/6&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

\*Saito, Fumihiko [2008] Foundations For Local Governance: Decentralization in Comparative Perspectives (Heidelberg, Germany: Physica-Verlag)

Various forms of decentralization are recently pursued in the world. However, there has not been a coherent framework to access these intended outcomes generated by decentralization measures implemented in Asian and African countries. This book provides such a framework based on comparative analyses of decentralization measures in six countries: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India (Kerala), Uganda, Ghana, and South Africa. Although decentralization measures are potentially useful for both political democratization and economic efficiency, successful reforms need coherent approaches in which diverse stakeholders would share responsibilities and resources in order to achieve the ultimate objective of poverty reduction. The details can be seen in the following website.

<http://www.springer.com/economics/development/book/978-3-7908-2005-8>

\*E-Governance in Africa: From Theory to Practice - A Handbook on ICTs for Local Governance. IDRC

What are the implications for policy and practice of the integration of ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) in local governance systems in Africa? What are the key drivers for the effective integration of ICTs? Using case studies from Senegal, Ghana, Uganda and South Africa this International Development Research Centre (IDRC) book analyses these issues. It finds that there is potential for growth by integrating ICTs in local governance, although building capacity is a key aspect of that potential.

<http://www.gsdrc.org/go/display&type=Document&id=2919&source=rss>

\*EUROPEAN NON-STATE ACTORS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES THEMATIC PROGRAMME

Update note for NGOs

12.07

[http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/internetdocumentsFRE/4.Publication/4\\_3\\_documentsdeposition/2007-2008/CONCORD-NSA-LA-Update-Note.pdf](http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/internetdocumentsFRE/4.Publication/4_3_documentsdeposition/2007-2008/CONCORD-NSA-LA-Update-Note.pdf)

All the best,

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<http://www.ecdpm.org>

<http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/>

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