

Weekly Compass

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

New at ECDPM

Development Policy and International Relations

New blog on the future international role of the European Union.

The decisions that are made in the autumn of 2009 will shape Europe's international role in the future. The script that drives global policy making is being rewritten, in response to the financial crisis, climate change and global security challenges. Following the recent publication of an [article on Europe's global challenges](#) by Simon Maxwell, Paul Engel, Dirk Messner and Pierre Schori, the magazine the Broker has created a special blog to stimulate further debate on how the decisions made over the next three months can shape Europe's international role in the future. The blog was launched on 22 September and features recent contributions by ODI's Michaela Gavas and ECDPM's Paul Engel. The blog will post video messages, blog entries, debate, and weekly summaries of closed forum discussions about the six points the opinion piece is emphasizing. Click [here](#) to read more.

Not letting the immediate crowd out the important: Making the most of the upcoming AU - EU peace and security dialogue. Andrew Sherriff and Eleonora Koeb, ECDPM. The views expressed here are their own.

On the 12th of October 2009, the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the European Union Political and Security Committee also known by its French acronym (COPS) will meet in joint session for the second time in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. With Somalia, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, a number of unconstitutional changes of government in Africa, the rise of terrorism, drugs trafficking in West Africa and piracy in the Horn, the agenda is likely to be full with pressing immediate concerns. Yet it would be a missed opportunity if this joint forum did not consider longer term issues of how the EU could best support the development of an effective African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Indeed the EU is the major backer of APSA primarily through the African Peace Facility, an innovative funding mechanism utilising the European Development Fund. The EU and the AU under the new Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) agreed in 2007 three priorities for the period 2008 - 2010 for their Partnership on Peace and Security. These are 1) an EU-Africa enhanced dialogue on peace and security, 2) the full operationalisation of APSA and 3) sustainable funding for African-led peacekeeping. Indeed the joint AU PSC - COPS meeting is a tangible commitment to the enhanced dialogue dimension of this partnership. The JAES implementation has been dogged with challenges of genuine joint ownership, financing, effective coordination and competing EU and African actors. Yet the Partnership on Peace and Security has been one of the more successful aspects of the JAES - partly because within the realm of peace and security the AU-EU dialogue was more mature, the agenda setting was joint and clearly aligned to African priorities, the added value was not in question, member-states on both sides were interested and there was already clarity on the dedicated finances to make things happen. The same cannot always be said for other partnership areas of the JAES, such as migration, climate change, democratic governance, human rights or the Millennium Development Goals. The operationalisation of APSA is not without considerable challenges, and there have been more than just teething troubles with its implementation to date. It cannot be the panacea for all the peace and security challenges in Africa. Unrealistic expectations will see it unfairly deemed a failure. Yet as a genuine African attempt to address peace and security challenges on the continent it deserves a critical but supportive partner. The challenge of operationalising APSA is not theoretical, and African soldiers in the AU peacekeeping mission in Somalia recently tragically paid for their engagement with their lives. The EU is one of most consistent backers of APSA yet as Africa looks to the future, it is a good time to have a robust dialogue. This dialogue must cover how the EU can best support African efforts at addressing peace and security challenges on the continent in the long-term without undermining African ownership and

No. 10, 25 September 2009

Dear,

It has been a busy week for world leaders. The United Nations General Assembly began deliberations this week on several important global issues. A climate change meeting was also held to prepare for the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December. The G20 summit on economic recovery and global governance continues as we go to press (the conclusions will be posted on the summit's website later today). European governments agreed common positions, sometimes at odds with those of the United States and seen as unrealistic by some African governments, ahead of these meetings damping hopes for global agreements. A flurry of very hard-hitting papers from international organisations through to NGOs were also released ahead of the meetings which stressed the importance of increasing global poverty-fighting commitments in a world facing economic, food and climate crises and calling for the gap in fulfilling global aid, trade and debt commitments to be filled. Substantive results will only come from political engagement and hard bargaining. Several meetings will take place in the coming weeks to further discuss these issues and the future of European and international development cooperation. See the [Weekly Compass-Extended Version](#) (link below) for all the details.

All the best,

Melissa
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Extended version in PDF
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Off the track

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

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

leadership.

External Evaluation of the Policy Coherence Unit of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Summary

The Dutch Policy Coherence Unit (PCU) was first set up as a dedicated task force in May 2002 and is part of the Directorate General for International Cooperation. In 2006, OECD peer review concludes that The Netherlands now has a "winning combination" of political commitment, a clear policy framework and the capacity to deliver through a dedicated PCU. How has it been achieved? This ECDPM PCU evaluation looks into its internal setup, but offers also concrete examples of unit's engagement in the areas of non-trade concerns, access to medicines in developing countries and Economic Partnership Agreements. Click [here](#) to read more.

Europafrica Bulletin. 14 September 2009. ECDPM.

ECDPM's newsletter on News and Resources on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and beyond. Click [here](#) to read the bulletin.

Economic and Trade Cooperation

The acp-eu-trade.org newsletter -- No. 32/September 2009. Click [here](#) to read the newsletter.

Visit also our Programme home pages

Development Policy and International Relations programme - Economic and Trade Cooperation programme - Governance programme

Policy News

Development Policy and International Relations

EU Report on Policy Coherence for Development. 17 September 2009.

EU policies are more coherent and positive for development in poor countries. In the recently adopted EU Report on Policy Coherence for Development, the European Commission shows that development concerns have been integrated in all the 12 policy areas which have an impact on poor countries. In the areas of research, energy and environment, EU policies have been particularly positive for developing countries. Click [here](#) to read more.

Economic and Trade Cooperation

Activists and campaigners in 30 countries demand turnaround in EPA negotiations. EPA Watch. 25 September 2009.

Activists and campaigners accuse the European Commission of pressuring ACP-Countries to take on new obligations that go beyond WTO compatibility requirements. They urge European decision-makers to allow flexible market access arrangements and to meet ACP requests for the re-negotiation of contentious issues included in the agreements. ACP civil society organisations call on their governments to stand firm and not to give in to EU pressures. They demand that the ACP governments suspend negotiations as long as the financial crisis rages in their countries. 27 September 2009 marks the 7th anniversary of the launch of the EPA talks. Since 2004 civil society organisations in the EU and the ACP countries have declared this Stop EPAs Day, a day of protest against the EU approach to EPAs. Click [here](#) to read more.

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Follow the major ECDPM and ACP-EU events on our calendar

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

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