

Weekly Compass

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

New at ECDPM

All-Centre

Director's message explores development cooperation in a changing global landscape

In this year's annual, forward-looking message, ECDPM's Director Paul Engel considers the emergence of a more "political" role for development policy in an increasingly crowded and complex international cooperation agenda, in which the Millennium Development Goals represent just one of many urgent global priorities. He argues that in a world searching for radical new policy directions following the succession of global crises that have unfolded over the past year, there is a window of opportunity to leverage the unique experiences of international development cooperation to strengthen international relations more broadly and help find inclusive solutions for some of the intractable global problems that continue to affect the poor. Paul refers in particular to the lessons learned in ACP-EU cooperation - the need for clear development objectives, donor accountability and strong and decisive input from ACP stakeholders - that can inform a more development-oriented international cooperation agenda. He cautions, however, that if past EPA negotiations are anything to go by, issues of ownership and distrust in the fundamentally asymmetric partnership will continue to present major hurdles. The Director's message explores a number of other challenges including: dealing with African and European political integration processes; and the continued rationalisation of the international aid architecture. Paul identifies the successful ratification of the EU Lisbon (Reform) Treaty in early 2010 as offering a major impetus for much-needed institutional reforms in EU external relations, and that has the potential to encourage greater coherence in EU international relations as well. He concludes by signalling ECDPM's continued commitment to bolster these international efforts through its research, policy analysis, process facilitation and knowledge dissemination activities.

To read the director's message and have succinct overviews of ECDPM programme activities, please [click here](#).

All ECDPM publications now available on one CD ROM

This handy compilation orders ECDPM publications by policy topic, offering users alternative entry points to our work. In addition, the search function has been significantly improved to help users find publications more easily and also provides search results for both French and English publications on the same page. Contact Jacquie Dias for a copy at jd@ecdpm.org

Economic and Trade Cooperation

Vacancy: Research Assistant for the Economic and Trade Cooperation Programme

ECDPM is looking for a creative individual for an initial 6-month assignment (subject to extension or upgrading based upon outstanding performance). The successful applicant will support the Centre's dialogue, networking and capacity development activities in the context of ACP-EU cooperation, including the maintenance of the www.acp-eu-trade.org website. Language requirements: Fluent in French and English
Closing date: August 14, 2009
For further details and application form, please [click here](#).

Governance

ECDPM partnership with key African network bears fruit

ECDPM and Laboratoire Citoyennetés, a Burkina Faso civil society organisation active in the ACE-RECIT (l'Association Construisons Ensemble -Recherche sur les Citoyennetés en Transformation) regional network which seeks to facilitate and influence dialogue between West African citizens and governments on regional governance issues, have collaborated informally since 2004. In 2008, both organizations concluded a 'strategic partnership agreement' committing them to long-term collaboration in the pursuit of common objectives, including: informing and facilitating

No. 5, 24 July 2009

Dear,

I hope that you were able to try out Bloglines this week and that you're finding it a useful tool.

If you want to go further, I'd suggest next having a look at RSS feeds. They are also a very helpful, and easy to use, service that will allow you to be directly informed of the news you want, when you want it and in the form you want to receive it in. And its very complementary to Bloglines. Again, I think Common Craft gives the easiest 3 minute video explanation of RSS feeds and how to use them. [Click here](#).

I promise to give you a break on Web tools next week...and go a bit lighter as we get ready to head into the summer break here in Europe in August.

All the best,

Melissa
mj@ecdpm.org

Extended version in PDF

Find the extended version of this newsletter online

Off the track

DFID seeks support for a Climate and Development Knowledge Network. July 2009.

DFID UK wishes to engage a Service Provider to establish and manage a major new Climate and Development Knowledge Network to deliver a set of knowledge management, research and tailored advisory services for developing countries. The Climate Network will enhance developing country access to high quality, reliable and policy-relevant information on climate change and development. [Click here](#) to read more.

Services

Subscription options

Manage your subscriptions (subscribe, unsubscribe or get text / mobile version)

Manage e-newsletter

The information in this e-newsletter is also available: through RSS topic feeds



RSS subscriptions



follow us on Twitter

To prevent this e-newsletter from getting blocked by email

innovation among African policy makers and development partners; and supporting local governance, decentralization and domestic accountability initiatives. As part of their joint knowledge dissemination activities, the partners have published three new research papers this week:

- L'offre et la demande d'éducation scolaire dans les petites villes ouest-africaines
- L'offre de santé dans les petites villes ouest-africaines
- Les enjeux de la gestion des déchets dans les petites villes ouest-africaines

For more on ECDPM's partnership with Laboratoire Citoyennetés [click here](#).

ECDPM presents results of EU civil society evaluation. Brussels. 16 June 2009.

At the invitation of EU CORD (a network of Christian Organisations in Relief and Development), ECDPM's Alisa Herrero Cangas presented the findings of the evaluation ECDPM undertook for the European Commission (EC) on EU support to civil society organisations recently. Among other issues, participants discussed what European CSOs can do to promote political leadership by the EC and other donors, and their role in the new aid architecture debate. Members of EU Cord promised to share the Evaluation findings widely with their members and national networks. They will come back to ECDPM on the outcomes of their meetings, and share with us their concrete follow-up proposals, including with their partner organisations.

[Click here](#) for ECDPM's presentation "Evaluation of EC aid delivery through civil society organisations" to EU-CORD, 16 June 2009. [Click here](#) to read the Evaluation of the EC aid delivery through Civil Society Organisations.

[Click here](#) to visit EU-CORD's website.

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

LINK! European Union Delegation to the African Union launches monthly newsletter. 20 July 2009.

A collaborative initiative with all EU representatives to the AU, this newsletter aims to provide a link between Addis Ababa and Brussels on the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU strategic partnership. It also aims at raising awareness of important ongoing activities and mobilising further support. The inaugural issue includes interviews with the President of the African Union Commission, S.E.M. Jean Ping and the now former EC Development Commissioner Louis Michel, as well as reflections from the Ambassadors of the Czech Republic and Sweden to the AU (the former and current EU Presidencies). [Click here](#) to read LINK!

Sudan loses access to European Development Funds. Sudan Tribune. 23 June 2009.

Sudan has submitted a formal notification of withdrawal from the amendments made to the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement signed in 2005. According to media reports, Sudan's decision was motivated by a stipulation in the revised agreement to ACP member nations to take steps towards ratifying the Rome Statute, which is the founding text of the International Criminal Court. As a result of this action, Sudan may be denied access to funds totalling up to 300 million euro, with negative consequences for EU support to the semi-autonomous Government of South Sudan and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Other programmes likely to be affected include the European Development Funds (EDF's) Regional Indicative Programme. [Click here](#) to read more.

See also: Decision on the meeting of African States parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. 14 July 2009 which is in reply to statements from some international NGOs following the adoption by the AU Summit of its decision not to cooperate with the ICC. The AU parties stress that the decision was taken by normal consensus agreements and that it is a logical consequence of the stated position of the AU on the manner in which the prosecution against President Bashir has been conducted. The AU decision they say is a balanced expression of the willingness to promote both peace and justice in Darfur and in The Sudan as a whole. It is now incumbent upon the United Nations Security Council to seriously consider the request by the AU for the deferral of the process initiated by the ICC the statement concludes. [Click here](#) to read more.

Economic and Trade Cooperation

ACP Regional Integration Organisations Discuss Framework for Monitoring Regional Integration. Brussels. 7-8 July 2009.

At a meeting of ACP Regional Integration Organisations (RIOs) in Brussels, two organisations implementing an EC-funded project to

riters please add our address (mj@ecdpm.org) to your email address book

Event calendar

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



ECDPM websites

Discover our thematic websites:

acp-eu-trade.org
europafrika.net
capacity.org

Sharing information with stakeholders



Visit the InfoCentre

support regional integration in ACP states presented their in depth baseline analysis for the implementation of a system of regional integration indicators at the level of 12 ACP RIOs. The two organisations, Landell Mills, UK, and ADE, Belgium, have developed the framework for a system of regional integration indicators based on fifty core indicators. ECDPM's San Bilal contributed to the ACP seminar, which provided a good opportunity for interacting with the focal points of the twelve regional integration organisations that participated in the study, and to build on ECDPM's earlier and ongoing work on monitoring economic partnership agreements' negotiations and implementation. ECDPM is dedicated to contribute to inform and facilitate this process. [Click here](#) to read more about Landell Mills' project to support regional integration in ACP States. [Click here](#) for more information on ECDPM's work on Monitoring EPAs.

European Commission overhauls its website for developing countries' exporters. 2 July 2009.

The Export Helpdesk just launched its revamped website to facilitate market access from developing countries to the EU. Besides information on import tariffs, import requirements and trade statistics, the site now offers detailed information on the preferential arrangements in place between the EU and developing countries. [Click here](#) to visit the helpdesk.

Governance

EC delegations and headquarters discuss decentralisation and local governance at Brussels Workshop. Capacity4Dev. 6-10 July 2009.

The EC, much like other donor agencies, is providing growing levels of funds to support decentralisation and local governance in many parts of the world. Yet this is still a relatively new area of work and EC staff involved in direct support to decentralisation and local governance struggle with many thorny 'how to' questions. Their colleagues in charge of sector support are similarly confronted with the need to adapt their interventions to an increasingly decentralised environment. As part of the EC delegations' Learning Network on Support to Decentralisation and Local Governance process, EuropeAid recently organised a workshop for EC delegations and headquarters staff to examine these issues. During discussions, participants elaborated on the main implementation challenges identified in an online discussion held ahead of the workshop - poor institutional capacity at central and local government levels; issues related to taxation and fiscal decentralisation; participation and representation; and donor support. The Learning Network process will continue and the group aims to eventually produce a "Specific Guiding Principles" document applying the Paris Declaration principles to the field of decentralisation and local governance to promote the effective translation of agreements and consensus in approaches to decentralisation and to establish mechanisms to further bridge the work of the group with field operations. For more information [click here](#).

For more on the Informal Donor Working Group on Decentralisation and Local Governance [click here](#).

For more on ECDPM's work on Decentralisation and Local Governance, [click here](#) for publications.

[Click here](#) for our RSS news feed on Decentralisation and Local Governance.

The Politics of Aid: African Strategies for Dealing with Donors. Lindsay Whitfield. July 2009.

This book presents an original approach to understanding the relationship between official aid agencies and aid-receiving African governments. The authors tease out the multiple meanings of the term 'ownership', demonstrating why it became popular when it did, but also the limits to this discourse of ownership observed in aid practices. The authors set out to defend a particular vision of ownership-one that involves African governments taking back control of their development policies and priorities. The country case studies put the rhetoric of the new aid system to a more practical test. The authors ask how donors seek to achieve their policy objectives without being seen to push too hard, what preconditions they place on transferring authority to African governments, and what effect the constant discussions over development policy have on state institutions, democracy and political culture in recipient countries. [Click here](#) to read more.

Publisher: The Weekly Compass is produced by ECDPM (www.ecdpm.org) with financial resources provided by our core funder, the government of the Netherlands, and other financial partners - Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Luxemburg, Portugal, Switzerland and the UK.

If you received this e-newsletter from a colleague and would like to subscribe, you can do it on the [ECDPM website](#). If you no longer wish to receive Weekly Compass, click on the following link: [unsubscribe e-mail](#). We encourage our readers to circulate this newsletter to interested colleagues.

Editor: Melissa Julian, e-mail: mj@ecdpm.org Call or SMS on mobile +32 (0)47 328 11 65 - Fax +32 (0)2 380 31 55 Visit [Melissa's Profile](#)

Disclaimer: This newsletter has been created with great care though it may contain links to websites which are created and maintained by other organisations and which have information that is not complete or accurate. The contents of this message may express personal views which are not the views of ECDPM unless specifically stated. Reproduction is authorised provided that the source is acknowledged. However, we are not liable for the subsequent use of the information.

The information contained in this e-mail is intended for the person to whom it is addressed and may include confidential and/or privileged information. If you have received this e-mail in error please contact the sender immediately via info@ecdpm.org.

For more information about ECDPM: <http://www.ecdpm.org/about>