

Weekly Compass

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Editor's Pick

European Parliament pushes for stronger EU political engagement to promote Policy Coherence for Development

On Tuesday, the European Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) as its contribution to the European Union (EU) debate on this issue. The resolution recalls the EU's legal obligation under the Lisbon Treaty to take account of development objectives in all its policy decisions and points at persistent incoherence between several of the Union's key policies. To ensure that the EU lives up to its commitments, Parliamentarians included over 70 recommendations for actions to correct existing policy inconsistencies and ensure an inclusive and result-oriented approach to promoting PCD. Because the resolution is not based on a legislative document, the recommendations are not legally binding. However, Parliament has legislative co-decision power with the EU Council in many policy areas and, therefore, the ability to promote PCD before specific EU legislative proposals become law. In terms of next steps, the EU Council is currently considering a workplan of PCD policy initiatives as part of the EU action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals, due for adoption in June.

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Policy News

EC launching public consultation on future EU trade policy

The European Commission (EC) will publish an "issues paper" on 24 May as the basis for a web-based public [consultation process](#) that will run to 16 July. The input gathered will feed into an official EC policy communication planned for October. [EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht presented his ideas](#) for the strategy to the European Parliament on 5 May. He proposes that while multilateral trade liberalisation and rule-making should continue to be the overall guiding principle for the EC's engagement, the region should also pursue a more ambitious bilateral agenda. The EC will present proposals for EU investment policy legislation before the summer and elaborate a policy communication on trade and development in the course of 2011.

Joint Caribbean-EU Partnership Strategy outline adopted

The [EU-Cariforum \(Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States\) Summit](#) on 17 May adopted an outline for a [Joint](#)

Dear,

In addition to our feature and policy news items, the [Weekly Compass-Extended Version](#) includes several briefings from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) on issues ranging from budget support and trade to accountability and migration. We also include the EU Court of Auditors opinion on the EU External Action Service and EC proposals on research on agriculture, food security and climate change. A World Bank report on aid quality and a report from Global Financial Integrity on "dirty money" are also posted. We also include the results from the May EU Foreign and Development Ministers meetings, including on development support to Economic Partnership Agreements, and the EU's annual report on human rights and democracy in the world. We also report on the French Parliament's recent, and the AU's upcoming, debates on EPAs. The EU Council considered fast-start finance in developing countries to tackle climate change ahead of the upcoming Bonn international meeting, but the European Parliament, the African Union and NGOs are critical. We also provide analysis of the new UK government's development policy and indications that Denmark may be scaling back its development assistance. For more information on all this and more and for upcoming meetings in relation to aid, governance and trade see the [Weekly Compass-Extended Version](#).

All the best,

Melissa

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Extended version in PDF

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Off the track

Enterprise for Development: A New Policy Approach Toward Africa

This issue follows the adoption of the

[Caribbean-EU Partnership Strategy](#), which marks the beginning of a new phase in the Caribbean-EU relationship. The Strategy sets out the elements of a common vision and shared priorities, including the promotion of sustainable development. The inaugural meeting of the [Joint Cariforum-EU EPA Council of Ministers](#) was held in the margins of the summit and took important procedural steps to ensure the effective implementation of the EPA.

Improving governance a prerequisite in achieving MDGs

[Daniel Kaufmann of the Brookings Institution](#) argues that aid can only be effective if there is satisfactory, or at least steadily improving, governance in the recipient country. Politically difficult decisions and decisive leadership in donor agencies are necessary to effectively link governance to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), he says. If they succeed in doing this, the MDGs (or at least some of them) may still be within reach for most countries.

Supporting regional integration in East and Southern Africa

This [collection of papers from Tralac](#) starts by reviewing the African paradigm of regional integration and the broader African Union agenda. It then assesses progress towards regional integration in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as well as country-specific issues in relation to national and regional trade policy choices. Other topics covered include the status of the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations and the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on sub-Saharan economies.

EC plans to increase migration opportunities to the EU

The [EU Home Affairs Commissioner, Cecilia Malmström](#) has [informed](#) the European Parliament that the Commission intends to put forward proposals to give seasonal workers a secure legal status in order to prevent exploitation. The EC will also present a proposal to facilitate intra-corporate transfers of skills to and within the EU in order to boost competitiveness of the EU economy. These proposals are part of a package of measures to be included in a comprehensive new European policy on migration.

Social Accountability in Africa: Practitioners' Experiences and Lessons

This [collection of case studies from Africa on social accountability](#) from the Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDASA) attempts to build a consolidated body of knowledge on social accountability efforts across the continent. The diverse case studies showcase unique approaches in implementing social accountability strategies and interventions within different countries. The book emphasises in particular joint state-civil society initiatives in promoting accountability.

Promoting the international competitiveness of the European agri-food model

The EU is keen to ensure high EU food quality standards. Many developing countries, however, fear that standards can become non-tariff barriers to trade. Many EU Agriculture Ministers at a recent [Council meeting](#) felt that while the current EU model generates substantial benefits for society, it is costly and is not sufficiently recognised at international level. The application of all EU standards to imports or the exportation of the EU model to third countries through international organisations or bilaterally were remedies discussed. The European Parliament also discussed the issue at a [workshop](#). An EC report on the economic impact of risks and opportunities where EU and international standards differ will be published.

ten years after the enactment of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a coalition of its original architects and supporters have unveiled [a comprehensive new trade and economic policy](#) to be presented to the Obama Administration that would build on AGOA's successes and expand the growing trade relationship between Africa and the United States. It calls for the continuation of AGOA's exclusive duty- and quota-free access to the US market for African goods, as well as policies to strengthen and grow indigenous enterprises in Africa and measures that support job creation, export promotion and prosperity in both the US and Africa.

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Sharing information with stakeholders



Unpacking complexity: The State's legitimacy in fragile contexts

State legitimacy matters because it transforms power into authority and provides the basis for rule by consent, rather than by coercion. This [publication from the OECD](#) urges donors to pay more attention to legitimacy derived from local values as a way of strengthening state effectiveness, especially in fragile situations.

Doing Good Business in Africa: Contributing to the MDGs

This [Policy Brief from the Africa Progress Panel and Concern Universal](#), presents the findings of sector-based research conducted in collaboration with an advisory group of 14 leading international business people. The recommendations proposed by the study are primarily aimed at the private sector, but will be of interest for African governments and the development community as well.

Ten Reasons to Keep Faith with Africa's Peer Review Process

This [paper from the South African Institute of International Affairs \(SAIIA\)](#) argues that almost a decade after it was mooted, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) has raised awareness of governance issues, energised a continent and taken small but significant steps to remedy big problems. With committed leadership, greater transparency and better documentation of success stories, the mechanism promises to become even more significant in future.

ECDPM posts the latest news on international relations, development, economic, trade and governance policies daily on its website. [Click here](#) to access the full list of all the news we've collected this week. A convenient "Topics" feature also allows you to quickly scan your specific areas of interest.



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