

Weekly Compass

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Editor's Pick

Joint Africa-EU Strategy faces key test in coming year

The most substantial goals of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), adopted in December 2007, are enhanced political dialogue on peace and security issues and the realisation of a professional, African-led military infrastructure by June 2010. Progress towards this so-called Africa Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is critical to the overall success of the entire Africa-EU partnership, given the threat that continuing conflict poses to achieving fundamental political, economic and social development goals. In order to explore what has been achieved so far and assess remaining challenges for meeting the 2010 APSA deadline, the Europe-Africa Research Network (EARN) organised a conference in Lisbon on 26 November. A unique feature of the meeting, which also discussed the partnership's broader role in conflict prevention, management and resolution, was the involvement of senior military personnel from Portugal. Central to the discussions were lingering questions about the "value-added" of the partnership, and ownership, power and capacity asymmetries inherent in what is supposed to be one of the more developed JAES partnerships. This, it was noted, raises serious concerns about the viability of an "equal" partnership that is almost entirely dependent on EU aid resources. ECDPM presented a paper on "APSA - the Nature and Consequences of EU Support" at the meeting. Click [here](#) to download ECDPM's informal summary of the discussions and the presentations to the meeting.

Visit also our Programme home pages

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

Policy News

EU Council work programme for 2010-2011 to be adopted next week

The draft document sets out the strategic framework focusing on addressing global challenges. The revision of the Lisbon Strategy is a major priority in this regard. The EU will continue working towards a global agreement on the WTO Doha Round, pursuing regional and bilateral trade agreements, including Economic Partnership Agreements with the ACP, and pushing for further improvement of market access. The EU will continue to encourage the achievement of international commitments on quantity and quality of aid as well as strategic partnerships with developing countries and the African Union. Click [here](#) for the draft programme.

ACP-EU Joint Parliament Assembly adopts several

No. 20, 4 December 2009

Dear,

A series of notes explaining what the EU's Lisbon Treaty means in various policies areas were released this week. The incoming EU Presidency, Spain, and several other EU Member States, also called for rapid clarity on the role of development cooperation under the EU's Lisbon Treaty. In the run up to next week's climate change summit, concerns are being raised that European governments may provide insufficient support to help poorer countries cope with the effects of climate change and are pulling back from promises made to ensure that the climate financing expected to arise from there will be additional to existing development funding. We also provide reports from this week's WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva and conclusions from the EU-China Summit and Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. Finally, we flag an important meeting being held in Brussels next week on tax and development following on from one this week on financial transactions taxes. See the [Weekly Compass-Extended Version](#) for all the details on all this and much more.

All the best,

Melissa

Melissa Julian
mj@ecdpm.org

Extended version in PDF

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Off the track

Asia-EU Relations in the post-Lisbon Treaty world

Alain Ruche, of the EC's External Relations Directorate, paid a visit to ECDPM on this week to discuss the future of Asia-EU relations in the

resolutions

The Assembly, meeting in Luanda this week adopted resolutions on global governance and the reform of international institutions and on the impact of the financial crisis on ACP states. They also adopted the "Luanda Declaration" on the Second Revision of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement. The EU Trade Commissioner designate, and current EU Development Commissioner, Karel De Gucht, informed the Assembly that he is in favour of trade-related issues in the EPAs and will push for Aid for Trade. He also put a lot of emphasis on regional integration and even hinted at increasing regional envelopes for regions that progress well against their own integration agenda.

Click [here](#) for all the Assembly texts adopted. Click [here](#) for the Commissioner's speech.

EU Council sets ceiling for annual contributions to finance the European Development Fund

The Council fixed the 2011 ceiling of European Development Fund (EDF) Contributions from Member States to €3.690 million for the Commission and €210 million for the European Investment Bank which implies a reduction of the 2011 EDF cash flow for the Commission by €260 million, while this ceiling allows for an increase in the EDF contributions for the Commission by 5.4% from 2010 to 2011. The Commission maintains that further increases of the EDF cash flow in subsequent years will be necessary in the light of the pledges made by the EU. Click [here](#) for the EU decision.

How can the new European Commission make further progress on Policy Coherence for Development? Paul Engel, ECDPM.

In this contribution to The Broker's Europe's International Role Blog, ECDPM Director Paul Engel focuses on horizontal priorities of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). He explains that three issues in particular hamper progress on PCD in Europe and, at the same time, provide opportunities for improvement. One is the lack of result-orientation where improving this is essentially about clarifying and making explicit one's ambition for change. Lack of solid research on the impact on partner countries of EU policy incoherence in addition to evaluating what the EU its Commission and Member States are doing is another issue where more and better evidence collected in the South is needed. The third issue is lack of a clear Southern Voice in debates on (in)coherence. For example, even where an accountability mechanism exists such as Article 12 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, its use is so far only sporadic. Click [here](#) to read the full contribution.

EU starts screening raw materials critical list

An expert group set up by the European Commission has begun screening a list of forty-nine "potentially critical" raw materials whose availability to industry could come under threat as global competition for natural resources intensifies according to a EurActiv report. The new strategy is to be fully fleshed out next year. In the meantime, the Fair Politics Expert Meeting on the Raw Materials Initiative (RMI) and Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) brought together policy makers from the European Commission, European Parliament Members, NGOs, business and experts from both Europe and Africa to discuss ways to ensure the EU initiative does not develop into an aggressive strategy in favour of European industries. Click [here](#) for the EurActiv report. Click [here](#) for information on the Fair Politics Expert Meeting.

First Assises of Decentralised Cooperation for Development

Around 300 representatives from local and regional authorities from all over the world met with EU officials on 2 December to ensure their increasingly important contribution to development is recognised. The debates focused on local and regional authorities for greater aid effectiveness; local and regional governance;

post-Lisbon Treaty world. Many of the points he made are relevant to ECDPM's work on ACP-EU relations. He called for a more bottom-up, political, differentiated and holistic approach to external relations based on political dialogue and which allows for innovative thinking to deal with complex issues in a constantly evolving global context. Click [here](#) to view his presentation.

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access to energy for sustainable development; and the contribution of local and regional authorities towards the Millennium Development Goals. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for reports of the meeting.

Local Authorities in Development. EU call for proposals & procurement notices. EuropeAid. 1 December 2009.

Click [here](#) to access the call for proposals.

UK House of Lords discusses report on developments in EU trade policy

The focus was on the WTO, but with regard to the ACP, in responding to this debate, UK Business Secretary, Lord Mandelson, former EU Trade Commissioner responded on behalf of the Government to the criticisms made with regard to the EC's approach in the ACP Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations. He maintained that most of the criticism came from people who rejected the principle and concept of trade agreements between the European Union and the ACP countries because they have a backward-looking view of the role of trade in bringing about development. Click [here](#) for a transcript of the debate.

Migration for Development. EU Council Conclusions. 30 November 2009.

The EU commits to continue to strengthen the implementation of the migration and development agenda of the Global Approach to Migration, to organise legal immigration and mobility options for nationals of developing countries and to combat "brain drain". They also commit to further examine issues which may have the potential to facilitate circular migration and voluntary return and to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with Diaspora groups. They will further seek to make further progress in the definition and implementation of a common approach to migrants' rights. Click [here](#) to read the conclusions.

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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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](#)

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