

# Weekly Compass

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## New at ECDPM

### Development Policy and International Relations

#### **Africa-EU Conference explores Cotonou scenarios and African integration. Brussels. 8 July 2009.**

At a panel discussion on Africa-EU relations organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on 8 July 2009, participants discussed four scenarios for ongoing Economic Partnership Agreements in West Africa, ranging from a full liberalisation agreement on all trade in goods and services, to no agreement whatsoever. While European Commission representatives favoured full liberalisation, regional stakeholders called for a partial, phased liberalisation, covering only trade in goods. This approach would provide greater flexibility for national and regional trade policy, protect local agricultural and industrial sectors, and facilitate regional integration.

During a second panel session on the topic "The African Union: Prospects for further Integration and Relations to the EU," participants touched on the relationship between the Regional Economic Commissions and the African Union, and the inherent difficulties that this presents for the continental approach envisioned in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) process. ECDPM's Andrew Sherriff participated in these discussions and further noted that the added value of the JAES is its "joint" approach in which Africa is an equal player. Hence quality of dialogue, participation of actors, and the respect of JAES's fundamental principles such as "treating Africa as one," and the "harmonisation of existing policy frameworks", will be more effective in ensuring the JAES success than emphasising 'functional deliverables' only [Click here](#) for ECDPM's report of the meeting on <http://europafrika.net/>

[Click here](#) for the FES study, "The Cotonou Scenarios. Negotiations on the EPA between the EU and West Africa. June 2009.

[Click here](#) for ECDPM's publication "Beyond Structures? Reflections on the Implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy." March 2009

### Economic and Trade Cooperation

#### **Informal Workshop: Smoothing the way forward in EPA Negotiations. ECDPM. 8-9 July 2009.**

This informal consultation facilitated by ECDPM in Brussels sought to find common ground on two key sticking points in ACP-EU trade relations: the contentious issues in ongoing Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations and the delivery of development support to accompany trade liberalisation. Attended by a small group of ACP and EU experts, the timely workshop first sought to increase common understanding on five key issues of concern expressed by ACP countries in the current negotiations towards EPAs, to help progress towards the conclusion of the negotiations. The discussions then tackled mechanisms for the delivery of Aid for Trade and development support to EPAs, with a focus on achieving the regional integration objectives of the EPAs. [Click here](#) to read more.

### Governance

#### **ECDPM contributes to EuropeAid's "Capacity for Development" portal**

The new EU online platform, Capacity4Dev, is part of the Commission's ambitious "Backbone Strategy" to reform technical cooperation. The Commission envisions the new portal as an essential tool in reforming technical cooperation programmes that support capacity development, public sector reform and other themes. The site, which will be developed through 2009, provides a forum for all Commission staff, partner countries, other donors, academics and civil society representatives to share ideas and expertise. ECDPM's Jan Vanheukelom is co-editor of the Governance section of the platform.

[Click here](#) to visit the Capacity4Dev website.

[Click here](#) to view ECDPM's Capacity development publications.

[Click here](#) for ECDPM's publications on Technical assistance.

No. 3, 10 July 2009

Dear,

I am pleased to send you this third edition of the Weekly Compass.

With the convenient "Topics" feature, you can quickly scan your areas of interest on our website, subscribe to topic-specific RSS feeds, and retrieve information from the Weekly Compass archive. Readers can further choose between the new short edition containing feature articles and highlights of key policy developments, and this full-length Extended Version.

In addition to making our work more accessible, ECDPM aims to use this growing network of policy actors (numbering more than 7,000 e-alert subscribers and thousands of regular web visitors), to enhance international relations around key trade, development cooperation, and governance debates.

As we continue to improve the Weekly Compass, we would be grateful for your feedback on how we can improve our services to better meet your needs. We encourage our readers to circulate this newsletter to interested colleagues.

All the best,

Melissa  
[mj@ecdpm.org](mailto:mj@ecdpm.org)

#### Extended version in PDF

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## Off the track

With a key focus on developing countries, and a particular emphasis on low-cost, grassroots, sustainable solutions, [kiwanja.net](http://kiwanja.net) is unique initiative that supports local, national and international non-profit organisations to make better use of information and communications technology in their work. Specialising in the application of mobile technology, [kiwanja.net](http://kiwanja.net) maintains one of the most comprehensive sources of mobile-

## Workshop addresses governance in EU Sector Operations. Brussels. 24-26 June 2009.

ECDPM's Jean Bossuyt presented the EuropeAid Reference Document "Analysing and Addressing Governance in Sector Operations" to the Anti-corruption workshop for EC Delegates. The training seminar addressed political economy analysis, global and national anti-corruption initiatives and strategies, and context-specific analyses - where socio-anthropology studies can play a useful

role - that affect the environment in which corruption flourishes or how it can best be tackled.

[Click here](#) to read more.

### 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

#### AU Summit reaches hard-won consensus on a new African Union Authority. Sirte, Libya. 1-3 July.

Nearly half of the fifty-three African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government reached consensus, after lengthy into-the-night negotiations, to establish the African Union Authority to replace the African Union Commission. According to participants, Libyan Leader Mouamar Kadhafi supported by Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade, argued to speed up continental integration. Other countries, notably in the Southern African region, Nigeria and Tanzania argued against accelerating the process. Commenting on the consensus reached, Jean-Marie Ehouzou, the Benin Foreign Minister noted, "African leaders are in agreement with ceding a little of their sovereignty to the AU Authority". To enter into force the AU Authority must be approved by the Parliaments of all AU countries. African leaders also discussed the final details in the integration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the organs of the AU and adopted a resolution ending cooperation with the International Criminal Court in the Hague. Finally, leaders also decided to reinforce agriculture and food security and to enlarge the powers of the AU Commission into foreign, trade and defence areas.

[Click here](#) to visit the official AU Summit website which includes all background document and where final reports and conclusions will be posted.

For press coverage: [Click here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

For more background information, [click here](#) to read ECDPM's paper "Commission to Authority: Shifting the African Union balance of power" by Faten Aggad and Siphmandla Zondi and [click here](#) to read the Institute for Security Studies' paper "The proposed African Union Authority: Hybridisation, balancing intergovernmentalism and supranationalism."

### Economic and Trade Cooperation

#### The EU will work with South Africa to align the rules of origin provisions in the interim Economic Partnership Agreements with those in the SA-EU TDCA. Business Day (Zambia). 1 July 2009.

South Africa Trade Minister Rob Davies has welcomed EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton's commitment made in their meeting in Paris last week to review the rules of origin provisions at the heart of South Africa's problem with the interim EPA signed recently by the EU with Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique. Work has begun at a technical level to achieve this alignment. An alignment with the SA-EU Trade, Development and Co-operation agreement (TDCA) would mean that no single-stage goods would be allowed into the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) market. This would achieve policy coherence within SACU "for now", although in the long term this could be undermined by issues such as export taxes, infant industry protection and more favoured nation status. [Click here](#) to read more.

#### ECOWAS Delay on EPA Allows Ghana to Re-Think on interim EPA. IPS. 29 June 2009.

Emmanuel Awuri, acting director of policy planning, evaluation and monitoring in the ministry of trade, acknowledged that, "from a technical point, the government could go ahead with the signing of the interim agreement. However, there are political undercurrents, meaning that the government has to weigh different considerations in order to take a decision." Tetteh Hormeku, Third World Network (TWN) Africa's head of programmes has expressed misgivings on the rule of origin article in the interim EPA under which access to the EU market is only guaranteed if goods originate in Ghana. [Click here](#) to read more.

related articles, projects and reports on the web, dedicated to documenting the social and environmental impact of mobile phones in developing countries. [Click here](#) to read more.

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### ECDPM websites

Discover our thematic websites:  
[acp-eu-trade.org](http://acp-eu-trade.org)  
[europafrika.net](http://europafrika.net)  
[capacity.org](http://capacity.org)

### Sharing information with stakeholders



Visit the InfoCentre

## Governance

### **Public Engagement for Better Policy and Services. OECD. 19 June 2009.**

Complex policy issues cannot be solved by government alone. Delivering high-quality public services at the least cost and achieving shared public policy goals requires innovative approaches and greater involvement of citizens. This book is a valuable source of information on government performance in fostering open and inclusive policy making in 25 countries. It offers rich insights into current practice through 14 in-depth country case studies and 18 opinion pieces from leading civil society and government practitioners. It includes 10 guiding principles to support open and inclusive policy making and service delivery in practice. [Click here](#) to read more.

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