

<http://www.google.com/tools/firefox/toolbar/FT3/intl/en/index.html>

15.12.08

Dear ,

This is the Weekly ECDPM ACP-EU News E-Alert.

Information provided in weekly e-alerts is available via daily updated RSS feeds which can be found on the ECDPM website's News and Events page www.ecdpm.org/news. You can view all information or select feeds according to specific topics of interest. You may find these easier to read. And they are also available to any organisation to post on its own internal or external websites. This e-alert and previous issues are also available in PDF format at:

http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/7732def81dddfa7ac1256c240034fe65/2f9cc239d94a300bc1257344004ddd21?OpenDocument

I need to improve the quality of the weekly e-alert with information and analysis from beyond what's available on the internet. If you have a moment to pass on anything that could usefully be included I'd be most grateful. It will be non-attributable of course (unless you prefer otherwise). If you provide information, then others will too with information useful to you.

All the best and Season's Greetings from all of us at ECDPM

www.ecdpm.org/seasonsgreetings,

Melissa

ECDPM ACP-EU News

Weekly E-alert

15.12.08

Headings:

New at ECDPM

General Reports/News of Contextual Interest

Major ACP-EU Events/Debates

EU Institutional Change

EU Enlargement - New Neighbourhood Policy

Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) – The EU's Role in the World

EU Budget – European Development Fund

EU-Africa Relations

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Migration and Development

EU External Aid

Good Governance

Coordination/Complementarity/Harmonisation/Coherence

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

Private Sector Issues

General Trade-WTO Issues

Non-State Actors, Local Governments, Parliaments

New at ECDPM

*ECDPM Strategy on Knowledge Management and Communication. 12.08

http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Navigation.nsf/index2?readform&http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/7732def81ddd7ac1256c240034fe65/82467adc9075fd16c1257512003f10cf?OpenDocument

*[A more political EU external action Implications of the Treaty of Lisbon for the EU's relations with developing countries.](#) ECDPM

In view of the upcoming Irish referendum on the EU Lisbon Treaty – ECDPM we remind you of this InBrief aimed to provide an overview of the innovations in the Lisbon Treaty which, directly or indirectly, are likely to affect the EU's relationship with developing countries. The first section will examine the issues affecting the future use of development cooperation in the context of the EU's wider external action¹ and Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). It will also point out the challenges in terms of putting these institutional innovations into practice. The second part of this InBrief will look at how the changes could play out in practice through changes in institutions and structures and in the implementation of policies, such as the recently launched Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/80ba021853007405c1256c790053145c/59a2e2aae0aa0374c1257439003d4621?OpenDocument#

*Current Caribbean-EU relations and future challenges. ECDPM

Institute of International Relations, Port of Spain, 27 November 2008

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51538&cat_id=6365

*Meeting on Governance Indicators and Assessments Impact and Future Trends. Maastricht. 21-22 January 2009

The Maastricht Graduate School of Governance in cooperation with the European Centre for Development Policy Management is organising an Advanced Academic Update for academics and professionals working in the area of governance indicators and assessments. The Advanced Academic Update on Governance Indicators and Assessments provides an opportunity to familiarize oneself with the range of producers

and users, multiple purposes, underlying assumptions and impacts of such assessments. It also provides an outlook into future trends.

[http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Download.nsf/0/9485B2DF504B6DDAC1257512003C72FE/\\$FILE/MGSOG%20%20A5%20flyer%20AAU%20Governance%20Indicators%20and%20Assessments%202008.pdf](http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Download.nsf/0/9485B2DF504B6DDAC1257512003C72FE/$FILE/MGSOG%20%20A5%20flyer%20AAU%20Governance%20Indicators%20and%20Assessments%202008.pdf)

*ECDPM Trade Programme Highlights Work Plan for 2009-2010

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51525&cat_id=6364

General Reports/News of Contextual Interest

*The new Query Wizard for International Development Statistics (QWIDS) is designed to provide easy access to DAC and CRS statistics.

It offers several benefits for a wide range of data users:

It is intuitive, so that even a novice user can navigate the system, query and extract data;

The system is “intelligent” and knows where to extract the most relevant data;

The data and metadata are pulled out from OECD.Stat, the repository of International Development Statistics (IDS) data.

QWIDS is designed to respond to most queries on development statistics, offering a “simplified” version of the DAC and CRS datasets. The complete datasets remain available through OECD.Stat.

<http://stats.oecd.org/qwids/>

*Report of Doha Financing for Development Conference. Global Call to Action Against Poverty. Terraviva. 05.12.08

<http://www.ipsterraviva.net/Europe/article.aspx?id=6823>

*La Crise financière et économique mondiale, perspectives africaines. French EU Presidency. 01.12.08

Alain Joyandet, d’Secrétaire d’État auprès du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères chargé de la Coopération. To Doha development finance summit. 01.12.08

<http://appablog.wordpress.com/2008/12/01/discours-d%e2%80%99alain-joyandet-la-crise-financiere-et-economique-mondiale-perspectives-africaines-doha-1er-decembre-2008/>

*Mobilising domestic financial resources for development

Remarks by Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General at the [International Conference on Financing for Development](#)

Doha, 29 November 2008

One of the challenges we face relates precisely to the degree to which the world economy has become integrated. This makes it very difficult to talk about “mobilising domestic financial resources” without also talking about “international trade”, or about “international resources” without also discussing “coherence”. What I would therefore like to do during my presentation is to first provide you with an overview of some of the

things the OECD has been working on that relate to the specific topic of this session -- "mobilising domestic financial resources for development" -- and then conclude with a more general overview of how the OECD has been supporting the Monterrey Consensus and what we are doing in response to the global economic crisis, especially as it threatens developing countries.

http://www.oecd.org/document/35/0,3343,en_2649_37413_41765091_1_1_1_1,00.html

* Tufts University Press new book - "[Uncharitable](http://www.uncharitable.net/)" - which challenges us to re-consider the whole way we've been taught to think about charity.

Author on a crusade to improve the effectiveness of the non-profit sector by exposing the major constraints put on non-profits that are holding back progress towards solving the most urgent social issues. Urges that society's nonprofit ethic acts as a strict regulatory mechanism on the natural economic law. It creates an economic apartheid that denies the nonprofit sector critical tools and permissions that the for-profit sector is allowed to use without restraint (e.g., no risk-reward incentives, no profit, counterproductive limits on compensation, and moral objections to the use of donated dollars for anything other than program expenditures). These double-standards place the nonprofit sector at extreme disadvantage to the for profit sector on every level. While the for profit sector is permitted to use all the tools of capitalism to advance the sale of consumer goods, the nonprofit sector is prohibited from using any of them to fight hunger or disease.

<http://www.uncharitable.net/>

*2008 Commitment to Development Index

http://www.cgdev.org/section/initiatives/active/cdi/non_flash/

*The Global Crisis: Implications for Aid and Development Finance. OECD
The Fallout from the Financial Crisis:

[The end of public support for development aid?](#) by Robert Zimmerman

[Implications for FDI to Developing Countries](#), by Andrew Mold

[Will Aid Budgets Fall Victim to the Credit Crisis?](#) By Andrew Mold, Dilan Ölcer, and Annalisa Prizzon

[External Debt Sustainability – Should More be Done for the Poor?](#) by Annalisa Prizzon

[Emerging Markets under Stress](#), by Helmut Reisen

http://www.oecd.org/document/16/0,3343,en_2649_33731_41705232_1_1_1_1,00.html

*Social Watch, a worldwide coalition of civil society organisations, has published its new annual report entitled "Rights Is The Answer". It argues that an approach based on human rights is the only way to overcome the current global financial, food, energy and climate crises, and provides examples of how the current financial architecture has ignored or openly violated those rights and triggered spiralling inequity all around the world. In one of the articles from the *2008 Social Watch Report*, Simon Stocker (Eurostep) and Mirjam van Reisen (EEPA) document how the promises made by the European Commission (EC) to focus its development aid strategies on promoting poverty eradication have not been fulfilled in reality, due in large part to Europe's overriding interest in liberalising trade flows. EC aid to developing countries is now largely channelled towards improving infrastructure and facilitating trade, instead of contributing towards the realisation of

basic social rights such as access to health care and education. Confronted by the numerous structural and circumstantial obstacles created by the fatal flaws in the global financial architecture that block the full realization of the human rights of all the world's citizens, Social Watch calls for the convening by the United Nations of a comprehensive, inclusive process to review and reconstruct the international financial and monetary institution. As Roberto Bissio urges, "In the transition from the current system - which has fostered instability and inequality - towards a just, sustainable, and accountable one, human rights must be the starting point and not some distant goal in the future."

<http://www.socialwatch.org/en/informeImpreso/index.htm>

*Regional Integration and Security in Central Africa – Assessment and Perspectives 10 Years after the Revival. Egmont Paper 25 by Angela Meyer

<http://www.egmontinstitute.be/paperegm/ep25.pdf>

*De la maîtrise des armements à la non-prolifération: les nouveaux défis de la sécurité coopérative. Egmont Paper 26 by Pierre-Etienne Champenois

<http://www.egmontinstitute.be/paperegm/ep26.pdf>

Major ACP-EU Events/Debates

*The ACP Council meets this week in Brussels from 15.00 on 16.12.08 until 18.00 on 18.12.08

*Czech EU Presidency Website.

<http://www.eu2009.cz/en/index.html>

*European Council conclusions. 11-12.12.08

Conclusions on Lisbon Treaty, economic and financial questions, climate change, CAP, ESDP

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/104692.pdf

Key deals were struck on the EU's wide-ranging climate package and the controversial Lisbon Treaty. The EU Commission President, Jose Manuel Barroso, described it as "the most important European Council in which I have participated". It was a personal triumph for French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who called the climate package "historic" and proclaimed the stalled Lisbon Treaty process "relaunched".

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7781024.stm>

*It is now possible to watch live broadcasts of European Parliament Committee meetings, as well as Plenary Sessions from Strasbourg and Brussels.

For more information and links, please consult the following website:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eplive/public/default_en.htm

*'Regions 2020' provides a first prospective analysis of the likely regional impact of four of the biggest challenges facing Europe: globalisation, demographic change, climate change, and the energy supply. Using a series of indicators, the report maps out the

degree of vulnerability of European regions to these challenges, and examines the potential disparities that these may generate across the EU. The findings will feed into the reflection process on the future of European Cohesion Policy.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/working/regions2020/index_en.htm

*The EU Presidency Outlook for Development

From French Euro-activism to Czech Euro-scepticism

Within the broader context of a changeover from France's Euro-activism to the Czech Republic's Euro-scepticism, both Presidencies will have been at the helm during a period in which the stakes were high for development. Denise Auclair reviews the developmental aspects of the French Presidency in the second half of 2008 and previews to the perspectives under the Czech Presidency in 2009.

http://www.weltwirtschaft-und-entwicklung.org/cms_en/wearchiv/042ae69b6f0eb4b01.php

*CONCORD (European NGO network) SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF THE COTONOU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

04.12.08, Paris

FINAL DECLARATION

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51535&cat_id=6365

EU Institutional Change

*European Council conclusions. 11-12.12.08

Conclusions on Lisbon Treaty, economic and financial questions, climate change, CAP, ESDP

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/104692.pdf

*EU Council conclusions on enlargement, Zimbabwe, migration, ESDP, EPAs, weighting of votes

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/104617.pdf

*Likely new EC Commissioners and other senior posts. EU Observer. 03.12.08

<http://euobserver.com/843/27222>

*José Manuel Barroso said, on Tuesday 9 December, that he was ready to extend the mandate of his Commission "by one or two months". The current mandate is to expire in November 2009 pending the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. The European Council this week may set 1 January 2010 as the target date for bringing the new treaty into effect, in the hope that Ireland will have ratified by then (see related article above). Renewing the Commission on the basis of the Lisbon Treaty (instead of the Nice Treaty currently in force) would in fact be the only way to give a positive response to the Irish request to ensure that each member state keeps the right to designate a commissioner in future. The Nice Treaty imposes a reduction in the number of commissioners as of 2009

while the Lisbon Treaty (which provides for a reduction in size from 2014 only) allows member states to be exempted from this reduction and to unanimously decide on the composition that they want. The Irish government takes the view that the commissioner issue is an indispensable condition for holding a new referendum, Mr Barroso stressed, addressing the press. “There will not be ratification in Ireland if the country cannot keep its commissioner. (...) I therefore support the request”, he said. Mr Barroso refutes the argument that the Commission is already too large. “It is not a problem to have a 27-member Commission or larger as it works more effectively than with fewer members”, he asserted. (H.B./transl.jl) Brussels, 09/12/2008 (Agence Europe)

EU Enlargement - New Neighbourhood Policy

*EU Council conclusions on enlargement, Zimbabwe, migration, ESDP, EPAs, weighting of votes

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/104617.pdf

*With EU enlargement no more on offer, the EU's neighbourhood policy faces increasing difficulties. 08.12.08

European Council on Foreign Relations

http://ecfr.eu/content/entry/commentary_golden_carrots/#When:08:25:21Z

*[The EU's sovereign neighbours](#). How are the EU's Eastern neighbours different from “accession neighbours”? 01.12.08

European Council on Foreign Relations.

http://ecfr.eu/content/entry/commentary_the_eus_sovereign_neighbours/#When:15:46:05Z

Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) – The EU's Role in the World

*European Council conclusions. 11-12.12.08

Conclusions on Lisbon Treaty, economic and financial questions, climate change, CAP, ESDP

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/104692.pdf

*Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy.

Providing Security in a Changing World. 11.12.08

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/reports/104630.pdf

*EU Council conclusions on enlargement, Zimbabwe, migration, ESDP, EPAs, weighting of votes

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/104617.pdf

*EU Council conclusions on reinforcing ESDP capacities, DRC and WTO. 09.12.08

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/fr/gena/104615.pdf

*EU High Representative welcomes EU increased commitment to supporting women in armed conflict and to promoting the role of women in peace and security. 08.12.08
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/104576.pdf

*EU Council conclusions on enlargement, Zimbabwe, migration, ESDP, EPAs, weighting of votes 08.12.08
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/104617.pdf

*Conclusions du Conseil UE sur la lutte contre les violences à l'égard des femmes Notamment dans le cadre de la PESD, et toutes les formes de discriminations à leur encontre. Conseil AFFAIRES GENERALES
Bruxelles, le 8 décembre 2008
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/fr/gena/104579.pdf

*Study on the Future Perspectives of the European Security and Defence College 01.12.08
<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st16/st16631.en08.pdf>

*Ushahidi, a web-based reporting tool is allowing Africans caught up in political unrest to report incidents of killing, violence and displacement. Its goal is to create a simple way of aggregating information from the public for use in crisis response. The site is a free open-source mash-up which can be run by anybody, anywhere in the world to gather distributed data via SMS, email or web and visualise it on a map or timeline.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7773648.stm>

*Few outside Europe, from the CIA to world public opinion, believe that the EU will be a relevant world actor in 2025. 01.12.08
European Council on Foreign Relations.
http://ecfr.eu/content/entry/commentary_theme_park_europe_torreblanca/#When:09:38:15Z

*NATO's Comprehensive Approach to Crisis Response Operations. A Work in Slow Progress.
Peter Viggo Jakobsen, DIIS REPORT: <http://www.diis.dk/sw69155.asp>

*The United Nations and the Comprehensive Approach.
Cedric de Coning, DIIS REPORT: <http://www.diis.dk/sw69227.asp>

*EU and the Comprehensive Approach
Eva Gross, DIIS REPORT: <http://www.diis.dk/sw69236.asp>

*Fragile States or Failed Policies. Some Donor-induced Dilemmas. INTRAC. 11.08

This paper provides an overview of the current discussion on fragile and failed states from the perspective of an NGO. We summarise some of the views of donors and governments and also try to locate the voice of civil society organisations in this debate. There appear to be major gaps in understanding the role and function of civil society organisations in fragile states. Exceptions to these are work undertaken by INTRAC in recent months and feedback from NGOs and other practitioners working in countries such as Lebanon, Pakistan and Afghanistan which are described by the donor community as fragile and failed states.

<http://www.intrac.org/docs/Briefing%20paper%2019%20Fragility%20and%20Fragile%20States.pdf>

EU Budget – European Development Fund

*EC currently working on this

DÉCISION DE LA COMMISSION relative au programme d'action annuel 2008 en faveur de la coopération intra-ACP à financer sur le 10e Fonds européen de développement

C (2008) 8403/1 of 09/12/2008

EU-Africa Relations

*AU-EU JAE Troika in Luxembourg. 28 April 2009

*Joint AU EU Summit in 2010 in Libya Sirte

*EC Working on this

EU, Africa and China: Political dialogue and cooperation on peace and security in Africa
16551/08

28.11.08

*Council Joint Action 2008/898/CFSP of 1 December 2008 extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative to the African Union

[http://eur-](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:322:0050:0053:EN:PDF)

[lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:322:0050:0053:EN:PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:322:0050:0053:EN:PDF)

*Africa-China-Europe trilateral co-operation: Is Europe naïve? EADI. 12.08

The European Commission is suggesting trilateral dialogue and co-operation among Africa, China and Europe. This sounds either bold or naïve. There is substance for – at times controversial – discussion among China, Africa and Europe, for sure. It would, indeed, be naïve to assume that trilateral discussion will easily result in finding a consensus. But not talking will not get us anywhere, either.

http://www.edc2020.eu/fileadmin/Textdateien/EDC2020_Opinion_01_Africa-China-Europe_web.pdf

African Union / NEPAD

*[Addis Ababa Hosts Twelfth African Union Summit of Heads of States and Government.](#)

26 January to 3 February 2009

The next Ordinary Sessions of the decision-making organs of the African Union will take place in Addis Ababa , Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The AU Summit will hold according to the following schedule:

The 17th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): 26-27 January 2009;

The 14th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (EC): 29- 30 January 2009; and

The 12th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government: 1-3rd February 2009.

The theme of the 12th Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government is: “Infrastructure Development in Africa ”.

Detailed programmes of the Ordinary Sessions and any other side or parallel meetings as well as the process for the accreditation of journalists will be communicated to all the media representatives later.

<http://europafrica.org/2008/12/04/addis-ababa-hosts-twelfth-african-union-summit-of-heads-of-states-and-government/>

*NEPAD Newsletter. 12.12.08

<http://www.nepad.org/2005/linkout/view.php?out=http://www.triomediamedia.co.za/work/nepad/newsletters/2008/>

*NEPAD Newsletter. 05.12.08

<http://www.nepad.org/2005/linkout/view.php?out=http://www.triomediamedia.co.za/work/nepad/newsletters/2008/>

*Partnership to Protect. CSOs and the AU. An advocacy toolkit for civilian protection 2008. African Centre for Humanitarian Action - Africa Humanitarian Action. This toolkit is designed for African civil society organisations (CSOs) who want to learn more about civilian protection and how to advocate for it to the African Union (AU). It provides an introduction to civilian protection; and the AU as well as a selection of “best practices” and advocacy methods. Methods outlined include among others stakeholder analysis; SWOT analysis; and communication strategies such as lobbying and media engagement. In addition, further reading recommendations on organisations, people and documents are provided.

<http://www.africahumanitarianaction.org/uploads/An-advocacy-toolkit-for-civilian-protection.pdf>

Migration and Development

*[Long-term migration and remittances are not likely to fall significantly due to the financial crisis](#)

On 11 December 2008, CTA in partnership with the European Commission-DG Development and EuropeAid, the EU Presidency, the ACP Secretariat, Euforic, IPS Europe and Concord (European platform of development NGOs) organized the eighth Brussels Development Briefing, part of a series of [discussion meetings](#) on ACP-EU development issues. This briefing focused on the issue: “Does international migration affect ACP rural development?”.

<http://brusselsbriefings.net/past-briefings/december-11-2008/>

*EU Council conclusions on enlargement, Zimbabwe, migration, ESDP, EPAs, weighting of votes. 08.12.08

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/104617.pdf

*EU Council conclusions on global approach to migration. 28.11.08

2908th meeting of the Council

Justice and Home Affairs

Brussels, 27 and 28 November 2008

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/jha/104584.pdf

EU External Aid

*Current Caribbean-EU relations and future challenges. ECDPM

Institute of International Relations, Port of Spain, 27 November 2008

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51538&cat_id=6365

*Annual Report 2008: on the European Community's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2007

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/multimedia/publications/documents/annual-reports/europeaid_annual_report_2008_en.pdf

*Aid Conference: Commission welcomes outcome on financing development
The Commission welcomed the outcome of the UN Conference on Financing for Development, which ended today in Doha/Qatar. Despite the financial crisis, UN member states have reconfirmed the overall goal of increasing aid for poor countries. Developing countries should also be involved in the negotiations on reforming the international financial architecture.

http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/IP-draft-Doha-Aid-conference02122008_en.pdf

*Eurodad analysis of the Doha UN Financing for Development Outcome Document. 11.12.08

<http://www.eurodad.org/whatsnew/articles.aspx?id=3218>

and

<http://www.eurodad.org/whatsnew/articles.aspx?id=3220>

*Report of Doha Financing for Development Conference. Global Call to Action Against Poverty. Terraviva. 05.12.08

<http://www.ipsterraviva.net/Europe/article.aspx?id=6823>

*CONCORD (European NGO network) SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF THE COTONOU PARTNERHSIP AGREEMENT

04.12.08, Paris

FINAL DECLARATION

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51535&cat_id=6365

*Doha Finance for Development. No train wreck, but no surprises. ODI. 02.12.08

<http://blogs.odi.org.uk/blogs/main/archive/2008/12/02/5720.aspx>

*Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Doha, Qatar, 29 November - 2 December 2008

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/index.htm>

*Leaders in Doha fail to agree significant development finance reforms. Eurodad.

02.12.08

As negotiations in the UN Financing for Development conference are coming to a close there is agreement on the need to convene a further conference under UN auspices to address reform of the global economic and financial architecture. Even though the call was watered down in the heated ministerial discussion that took place yesterday evening, at 10pm ministers came out of the meeting with an agreement to call for a UN conference at the highest possible level. Trevor Manuel from South Africa very strongly called for an explicit recognition in the document of the need to reform the international financial architecture through an inclusive and legitimate process. The German and Dutch development ministers also played a crucial role in reaching agreement and persuading the U.S. to support it.

<http://www.eurodad.org/whatsnew/articles.aspx?id=3188>

*Crises argue more strongly than ever for promises to fund aid to be respected, stresses Mr Barroso in Doha. 01.12.08

At the opening of the UN Doha conference on the funding of development (29 November, 2 December), which will examine the implication of the promises made in Monterrey in 2002 to boost world flows of public development aid to the poor countries, José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, called on the international community to play the card of multilateralism and to redouble its generosity and effectiveness in these times of crisis, rather than cautiously to withdraw its help. Stressing that the world is faced with a multi-dimensional crisis and the combined effects of the financial crisis, the climate challenge, global concerns on the security of food and energy supply, the deadlock in negotiations at the WTO and the recession of a number of major economies, the president declared: "As these crises proceed, it is increasingly

obvious that none of us can get out of them alone. This global crisis calls for global responses and global alliances based on joint responsibility".

He therefore sees Doha as "a historical opportunity to ensure a concrete follow-up of the meeting of the G20 in Washington, to put on the table concrete proposals guaranteeing that global financial and economic governance currently being redefined will be inclusive (...). This multitude of crises is not a reason to slacken off our global partnership for development and our commitments to achieve the Millennium development objectives (...). It is more important than ever for the donors to honour their promises, both regarding the volume and effectiveness of their aid". It was with great satisfaction that Mr Barroso was able to announce the reconfirmed commitment of the EU to bring the level of its aid to 0.56% of the GNI (gross national income) in 2010, and up to 0.7% in 2015, and to take stock of the recent agreement on the creation of the food facility with an envelope of €1 billion in favour of agriculture in the developing countries. In order to do their share in the collective effort, the developing countries must "observe their commitments in terms of governance and national measures to guarantee inclusive growth", stressed Mr Barroso. (A.N./transl.fl) (Agence Europe)

*José Manuel Durão Barroso President of the European Commission
Statement by the European Commission delivered at the UN Conference on Financing for Development to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus
UN Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus
Doha, 29 November 2008

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/08/664&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

*[Austria's development cooperation in 2007](#)

ADA, the [Austrian Development Agency](#), responsible for the implementation of the Austrian development assistance, recently released its annual report for 2007.

According to the report, ADA further continued its approach of consequent harmonization to make use of the division of labour with other actors in development. This was especially the case in Uganda where ADA took a leading role in the donor community active in the water sector.

ADA was strongly engaged in the European process to increase aid effectiveness, preparing for the revision of the Paris declaration in 2008. Furthermore the agency closely cooperated with other EU member states, especially regarding capacity-building partnerships with new donors in the EU.

Austria also extended its cooperation through direct budget support when Mozambique became the first country to receive general budget report since the beginning of 2008.

<http://euforic.blogspot.com/2008/12/ada-austrian-development-agency.html>

*Social Watch Annual Report, Rights Is The Answer. 01.12.08

It argues that an approach based on human rights is the only way to overcome the current global financial, food, energy and climate crises, and provides examples of how the current financial architecture has ignored or openly violated those rights and triggered spiralling inequity all around the world.

Social Watch, a worldwide coalition of civil society organisations, has published its new annual report entitled "Rights Is The Answer". It argues that an approach based on human rights is the only way to overcome the current global financial, food, energy and climate crises, and provides examples of how the current financial architecture has ignored or openly violated those rights and triggered spiralling inequity all around the world. In one of the articles from the *2008 Social Watch Report*, Simon Stocker (Eurostep) and Mirjam van Reisen (EEPA) document how the promises made by the European Commission (EC) to focus its development aid strategies on promoting poverty eradication have not been fulfilled in reality, due in large part to Europe's overriding interest in liberalising trade flows. EC aid to developing countries is now largely channelled towards improving infrastructure and facilitating trade, instead of contributing towards the realisation of basic social rights such as access to health care and education. Confronted by the numerous structural and circumstantial obstacles created by the fatal flaws in the global financial architecture that block the full realization of the human rights of all the world's citizens, Social Watch calls for the convening by the United Nations of a comprehensive, inclusive process to review and reconstruct the international financial and monetary institution. As Roberto Bissio urges, "In the transition from the current system - which has fostered instability and inequality - towards a just, sustainable, and accountable one, human rights must be the starting point and not some distant goal in the future."
<http://www.socialwatch.org/en/informeImpreso/index.htm>

*Managing Aid Exit and Transformation. Lessons from Botswana, Eritrea, India, Malawi and South Africa. Synthesis Report. Joint Donor Evaluation. 12.08

In 2005 four donor countries – Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden – took the initiative for a joint donor evaluation of the management of country level exit processes in development cooperation. The evaluation was seen as an opportunity for donors, development organizations and their developing country partners to share experiences and learn from each other regarding country level aid exits and their management. The evaluation is based on country studies in Botswana, Eritrea, India, Malawi and South Africa and covers exit processes involving any one of the four donors – 14 processes in total. This evaluation offers the following broad recommendations: Develop guidelines sensitive to exit processes in different contexts and reflecting different management challenges:

exit from force majeure situations: exit as crisis management;

exit from aid-dependent countries: exiting in a way that takes

care to allow externally funded activities to continue in a sustainable manner;

aid transformation in graduating countries:

exit in the context of transforming bilateral relations.

Conduct country specific pre-exit assessments based on a diagnosis of the country context and by making use of typologies for country contexts and exits.

Adopt a more business-like attitude towards aid exit. One needs to establish firmer rules for the game – which, importantly, have to protect the interests of both parties.

Guidelines for exits from aid dependent countries should be based on the concept of mutual accountability in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Explore options for addressing exit at entry. Donors should more proactively treat exits as an integral element of country strategies.

<http://www.sida.se/sida/jsp/sida.jsp?d=118&a=41360>

*Italian [Multi-year development guidelines approved](#). 12.11.08

Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, presided the December 9th meeting of the Steering Committee for Development Cooperation. The Minister reported almost the full use of the financial resources of the cooperation for 2008 - (811 million Euros as grants and 270 million Euros as soft loans) . The December 9th, Steering Committee has also approved multi-years guidelines for development cooperation for the years 2009-2011. <http://actionaiditaly.blogspot.com/2008/12/multi-year-development-guidelines.html>

*2008 Commitment to Development Index

http://www.cgdev.org/section/initiatives/_active/cdi/_non_flash/

*The Global Crisis: Implications for Aid and Development Finance. OECD

The Fallout from the Financial Crisis:

[The end of public support for development aid?](#) by Robert Zimmerman

[Implications for FDI to Developing Countries](#), by Andrew Mold

[Will Aid Budgets Fall Victim to the Credit Crisis?](#) By Andrew Mold, Dilan Ölcer, and Annalisa Prizzon

[External Debt Sustainability – Should More be Done for the Poor?](#) by Annalisa Prizzon

[Emerging Markets under Stress](#), by Helmut Reisen

http://www.oecd.org/document/16/0,3343,en_2649_33731_41705232_1_1_1_1,00.html

*A Rich Menu for the Poor. Food for Thought on Effective Aid Policies. 12.08

The Ministry's Effectiveness and Quality Department (DEK) has published a series of essays under the title *A Rich Menu for the Poor: Food for Thought on Effective Aid Policies*. The essays deal with topical themes in development cooperation, such as the political dimensions of poverty reduction, the ins and outs of the policy dialogue, capacity development, accountability, bridging the macro-micro gap and policy coherence.

<http://www.minbuza.nl/en/themes,poverty-reduction/quality-and-effectiveness/a-rich-menu-for-the-poor/index.html>

Good Governance

*Meeting on Governance Indicators and Assessments Impact and Future Trends.

Maastricht. 21-22 January 2009

The Maastricht Graduate School of Governance in cooperation with the European Centre for Development Policy Management is organising an Advanced Academic Update for academics and professionals working in the area of governance indicators and assessments. The Advanced Academic Update on Governance Indicators and Assessments provides an opportunity to familiarize oneself with the range of producers and users, multiple purposes, underlying assumptions and impacts of such assessments. It also provides an outlook into future trends.

http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Download.nsf/0/9485B2DF504B6D

[DAC1257512003C72FE/\\$FILE/MGSOG%20%20A5%20flyer%20AAU%20Governance%20Indicators%20and%20Assessments%202008.pdf](#)

*Best and Worst Performers in Local Govt in Uganda. 12.11.08

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200812110049.html>

*European Union-NGO Forum on Human Rights. 10-11.12.08

The aim of this forum is to develop new recommendations to enhance the European Union's foreign policy on human rights. Participants in the forum include 95 NGO representatives, half of whom come from non-Western countries, 27 EU Member State representatives and 28 representatives from international organisations, the United Nations and European institutions.

http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-12_2008/PFUE-10.12.2008/forum_ue_ong_sur_les_droits_de_l_homme

*IN SPITE OF THE WAR: PREPARE THE LOCAL ELECTIONS AND THE DECENTRALISATION IN THE DRC

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51526&cat_id=6363

*Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2009. Overcoming inequality. Why governance matters.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2008. This report argues that while there has been some remarkable progress towards some of the EFA goals since 2000, progress is being undermined by a failure of governments to tackle persistent inequalities based on income, gender, location, ethnicity, language, disability and other markers for disadvantage. Unless governments act to reduce disparities through effective policy reforms, the EFA promise will be broken.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0017/001776/177683E.pdf>

*Do free elections foster capable governments? The democracy governance connection in Africa

Does democratisation lead to better governance?

Authors: M. Bratton

Publisher: Afro-Barometer, 2008

Does democratisation lead to improved governance? This paper addresses this question with reference to a cross-section of sub-Saharan African countries using macro, micro and trend data. The results show an elective affinity between free elections and improved governance. Nonetheless, the democracy connection is more consistent in relation to some dimensions of good governance than others

<http://www.eldis.org/go/display&type=Document&id=41085>

*Is Political Analysis Changing Donor Behaviour-Unsworth 0908.doc

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51542&cat_id=6359

Coordination/Complementarity/Harmonisation/Coherence

*The need for policy coherence and new partnerships. 24-28.06.08

Global Governance for Sustainable Development. EADI Conference Report.

http://www.eadi-online.org/fileadmin/Documents/Events/General_Conference/2008/rapport_eadi_17_11_08.pdf

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

*ECDPM Trade Programme Highlights Work Plan for 2009-2010

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51525&cat_id=6364

*Current Caribbean-EU relations and future challenges. ECDPM

Institute of International Relations, Port of Spain, 27 November 2008

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51538&cat_id=6365

*EC currently working on this

Proposition de DÉCISION DU CONSEIL relative à la signature et à l'application provisoire de l'accord intérimaire établissant le cadre d'un accord de partenariat économique entre les États d'Afrique orientale et australe, d'une part, et la Communauté européenne et ses États membres, d'autre part
OM (2008) 863/1 of 09/12/2008

*EC currently working on this

Proposition de DÉCISION DU CONSEIL relative à la signature et à l'application provisoire de l'accord de partenariat intérimaire entre la Communauté européenne, d'une part, et les États du Pacifique, d'autre part
COM (2008) 858/1 of 09/12/2008

*New survival strategies required in Caribbean. Jessop. Week in Europe. Jamaica

Gleaner. 14.12.08

<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20081214/business/business5.html>

*Report of SACU Council discussions on regional integration and EPAs. The Namibian. 12.12.08

<http://www.namibian.com.na/news/marketplace/full-story/archive/2008/december/article/-20ddbdee9b/>

*Dominican Republic no longer interested in becoming part of CARICOM. 11.12.08

It has no faith in the CARICOM Secretariat's ability to either address pending agreements or to be the implementing authority for the CARIFORUM/EU Economic Partnership

Agreement (EPA). "Nobody wants to belong to an institution where they are not wanted," Federico Cuello Camilo, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic (DR) to the European Communities in Brussels told journalists yesterday. "The CARICOM/Dominican Republic agreement has been on the table since 1998 and the implementation record is abysmal. Quite frankly, we can live very well with the mechanisms we have, and whatever we have can be improved on," the Ambassador said. Cuello, who also served as Lead Negotiator on Investment and Trade in Services for CARIFORUM (CARICOM plus the Dominican Republic) in the recently concluded EPA negotiations, called the conference to publicly present his country's Statement on Matters Related to Institutional Arrangements. That statement was tabled at the recently-concluded 26th meeting of CARICOM's Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) in Guyana and circulated among ambassadors in Brussels. It proposes options for an EPA implementing institution for CARIFORUM as mandated under article 234 of the EPA. The four options suggested by the Dominican Republic were to create a brand new institution, or to utilise the already existing CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) or the Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA) as the EPA implementing institution.

But as he delivered four options, saying the Dominican Republic was "not married to any of them", Cuello poured cold water on two: that of creating a new institution and that of using the Secretariat. Creating a new institution, he said would cost time, money and resources that none of the countries involved wanted to spend, and the CARICOM Secretariat was just not ready. "We have difficulties with the CARICOM Secretariat. Our counterparts in the negotiation and implementation of [the EPA] was and is the CARICOM secretariat, and we're not happy with them," said Cuello, pointing to CARICOM's serial delaying of the EPA signing, when the Dominican Republic did so in a mere ten days. The Dominican Republic first engaged CARICOM in 1982, when it was granted observer status, and in 1992 presented a formal application for membership. Since then, complained Cuello, Suriname, a country which applied after the Dominican Republic has been admitted to the Caribbean club. In 1998, a Free Trade Agreement between the Dominican Republic and CARICOM was penned, but that too, has yet to be completely implemented. Yesterday, Cuello was clear to say that his country had moved on. "I think the time has passed for us to consider that venue. The reality has changed dramatically since then [1992]. What does it mean to be a member of CARICOM? It's not only trade, it's political co-ordination and a number of other issues that neither CARICOM nor the Dominican Republic is ready for," he said. Still, added the ambassador, his country was hopeful for prompt progress with the EPA implementation process. "What we hope to get out of this is a debate and a decision by explicit consensus. We are happy, and we can be happier if we take the joint decisions we need to take by consensus to really take advantage of the EPA because that is the big challenge ahead," he added.

<http://www.nationnews.com/302856228768126.php>

*Le Premier Minsitre Chef du Gouvernement du Cameroun, organise une réunion interministérielle le 10 décembre 2008, pour décider si le Cameroun signe l'APE intérimaire ou pas.

*H. E. Ambassador Federico Cuello, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Belgium and the EU, in a press conference held on Wednesday November 10 2008, articulated the urgency of implementing the CARIFORUM-EC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). 10.12.08

http://www.crn.org/documents/press_releases_2008/pr0819_The_DR_Shares_Perspective_on_EPA_Implementation.pdf

*Central African Party EPA, revised draft EU Council decision. 09.12.08
COUNCIL DECISION on the signature and provisional application of the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part
This Cover page shall be replaced by the attached page. Pages 1 to 4 of the Council Decision shall be replaced by the attached pages.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st12/st12122-re01co07.en08.pdf>

*[Mauritius to host COMESA Fund](#) for Aid for Trade. 09.12.08

Mauritius will host the COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) Fund that has been established as a vehicle to mobilize resources, PANA reported here Tuesday.

Follows intensive diplomatic negotiations which Minister Arvin Boolell had during his mission to Lusaka, Zambia, for the Council Meeting of the COMESA, on 4-5 December 2008.

He described the COMESA Fund as an instrument of Aid for Trade that addresses productive capacity and infrastructure needs, as well as adjustment costs associated with integration and economic reforms. The fund has an Adjustment Facility to address costs that may arise from implementing regional integration measures, including trade.' The fund also has an Infrastructure Window intended to mobilize resources for the construction and maintenance of infrastructure, and for addressing some of the limited productive capacity of its individual member states," he said. The COMESA Fund has been ratified and is now in force.

According to him, COMESA has identified a number of important infrastructure projects that would greatly enhance development and integration once implemented.

<http://www.afriquenligne.fr/news/africa-news/mauritius-to-host-comesa-fund-2008120917812.html>

*SADC wary of EU trade agreements. By: NANGULA SHEJAVALI. 09.12.08

THE current "scramble for resources" and Europe's "tactic to lock us into free-trade arrangements where bargaining chips are lost" through Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) could hinder SADC's economic integration initiatives.

Speaking at an ongoing conference titled 'Capturing the SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) Business Opportunities', the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Calle Schlettwein, said the current EPA arrangements, whereby Europe has fragmented the SADC region into groups and could undermine efforts to form a SADC customs union. The customs union is projected to be established in 2010. "We need to be aware of the European agenda, of the risks involved in creating various EPAs, and of what we could be losing," he said, pointing to the need to grow SADC into a viable trading block.

“What we need to question is whether we have alternative markets. At Sacu [Southern African Customs Union], we are getting up to N\$8 billion in annual revenue, and this can't be foregone, for example, for the loss of N\$1 billion that would result from a halt in the preferential trade treatment for Namibian exports into the EU markets. So we need to be highly aware of the risks involved to avoid being locked in [by the EU EPA] forever,” Schlettwein said. Mupelwa Sichilima, SADC Secretariat Programme Officer of Trade, Industry, Finance and Investments, highlighted the importance of taking into consideration the trade agreements currently on the table, as this would affect the way in which the envisaged SADC customs union would work.

“There is a rush to get the EPA agreements concluded, and we need to be wary of how this could affect our work on the customs union,” he said. Sichilima described the strategy of dividing groups in the region to create separate EPAs as a “divide-and-rule” strategy, following the breakdown in negotiations through the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. He stressed that SADC countries would need to work better as a group, and said that the AU needs to take a position in this regard. “If this does not happen, this divide-and-rule tactic will work against us.”

http://www.namibian.com.na/news/full-story/detail//sadc-wary-of-eu-trade-agreements.html?tx_ttnews%5Byear%5D=2008&tx_ttnews%5Bmonth%5D=12&cHash=be331715df

*EC Decision applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011 in respect of Nigeria. 09.12.08

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51534&cat_id=6364

*EC Decision applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011 in respect of Gabon. 09.12.08

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51522&cat_id=6364

*European Commission Decision of 9 December 2008 on the list of the beneficiary countries which qualify for the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance, provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011(notified under document number C(2008) 8028)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:334:0090:0091:EN:PDF>

*EU gives developing countries duty-free access with GSP+. 09.12.08

The European Commission has decided to give 16 developing countries duty-free access to the EU market for around 6400 tariff lines, under the European Union's special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance. The preferences, called GSP+, are in addition to the standard Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) extended to developing countries. GSP+ is offered to vulnerable developing countries that have ratified and effectively implemented 27 core UN and ILO conventions on human and labour rights, and other international conventions related to

the environment and governance principles. As a result of the Commission's decision today, the GSP+ beneficiaries from 1 January 2009 until the end of 2011 will be: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Sri Lanka and Venezuela. The eligibility of two of the countries, El Salvador and Sri Lanka, is currently the subject of an investigation by the European Commission into the implementation of certain UN and ILO conventions.

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/global/gsp/pr091208_en.htm

and

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/december/tradoc_141663.pdf

*The GSP+ provides better access than GSP for some of the important ACP export concerns, like fresh fruit/vegetables, cut flowers, textiles, fish and cocoa. Two ACP countries had applied, Nigeria and Gabon, but have not been accepted because they didn't meet the criteria. Out of 27 conventions on international human rights/good governance/sustainable development they needed to have ratified, Nigeria missed one (genocide) and Gabon two (child labour and hazardous waste trade) (according to our information, this was not published). There will be a new opportunity mid 2010 for countries to apply for GSP+.

*EAC Common Market talks continue. 09.12.08

Tindiwensi, Martin; The New Times (Kigali) 2008-12-09

The sixth round of negotiations for the East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol began on Tuesday, 2 December at the Serena Kivu Hotel in Gisenyi.

The 10-day meeting has brought together members of the High Level Task Force (HLTF) from the EAC member states: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for East African Affairs Charles Gasana officially launched the event, saying that the round is among the most crucial negotiations and final stages of the EAC common market arrangements which are expected to be implemented in 2010.

“This workshop is going to focus on Common Market negotiations and the main pillars of the negotiations are free movement of goods, persons, right to residence and establishment”, Gasana explained.

Gasana said that a common market is the next crucial stage in moving towards a common currency and political federation in East Africa. Although the Task Force will not meet the December 2008 deadline to complete the negotiations and sign the EAC common market protocol, he was optimistic that the deadline set for April 2009 will be met.

The later deadline was set by the EAC Heads of State Summit, the highest decision-making organ in the economic bloc. The common market will promote increased productivity, wealth creation, competitiveness, and enhance the entrepreneurial capacity of the private sector in the community, he said.

One of the delegates, Damascene Kahindu, was optimistic that the current meeting will result in positive recommendations towards the formation of the EAC common market and the strengthening of the EAC political federation.

[http://www.tralac.org/cgi-](http://www.tralac.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&cause_id=1694&news_id=57242&cat_id=1026)

[bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&cause_id=1694&news_id=57242&cat_id=1026](http://www.tralac.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&cause_id=1694&news_id=57242&cat_id=1026)

*EU Council conclusions on enlargement, Zimbabwe, migration, ESDP, EPAs, weighting of votes. 08.12.08
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/104617.pdf

*Dominican Republic eyes EPA implementation
The Dominican Republic and Caricom may be on a collision course of sorts over the economic partnership agreement with the European Union.
The Dominicans are reported to be asking Caricom to set up a unit outside of the Georgetown-based secretariat to monitor the implementation of the agreement.
The Dominican Republic is not a member of Caricom but negotiates with the EU as part of the Caribbean forum or Cariforum.
Caribbean analyst Rickey Singh said he disagreed with Santo Domingo's unilateral recommendation.
08.12.08
http://www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/news/story/2008/12/081208_nibdec8pm.shtml

*[Draft Opinion of the Committee on Development for the Committee on International Trade on the proposal for a Council decision concluding the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the CARIFORUM States, on the other part](#)
Rapporteur Jürgen Schröder, Committee on Development, European Parliament,
08.12.08
http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library_detail.php?doc_language=en&library_detail_id=4800

*Official version of EU Council regulation adding Zambia to EU EPA regulation.
08.12.08
Council Regulation (EC) No 1217/2008 of 8 December 2008 amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1528/2007 in order to add the Republic of Zambia to the list of regions or states which have concluded negotiations
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:330:0001:0001:EN:PDF>

*New Commissioner addresses ACP Ambassadors. 08.12.08
http://www.acp.int/en/coa/COA_ASHTON08.htm

*ACP and LDCs Sugar Exporters Statement to Trade Commissioner
Delivered by H.E. Mr Patrick I. Gomes, Ambassador of Guyana, Chairman of the ACP Consultative Group on Sugar. 08.12.08
http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51531&cat_id=6364

*EU has created conditions for a perfect economic storm in Caribbean. David Jessop.
The Week in Europe. 07.12.08

Which seems set to hit the Caribbean at just the moment that a deep and prolonged global recession overtakes the regional economy, causing fresh investment and financing to dry up.

European decisions on trade, tariffs and taxation that now quite literally threaten almost every significant export industry that the Caribbean has. Whether it is rum, bananas, sugar, rice, offshore financial services or tourism, changes underway or being proposed in the name of freer global trade, threaten to strip away the economic underpinning of the region.

Over the last decade, Europe has created the conditions for a perfect economic storm which seems set to hit the Caribbean at just the moment that a deep and prolonged global recession overtakes the regional economy, causing fresh investment and financing to dry up.

Europe by acts of commission or omission continues to dismantle the post colonial Caribbean economy without any viable alternative being in place.

07.12.08

<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20081207/business/business6.html>

*UK Pledges £20 Million for EAC Trade. 06.12.08

To boost trade opportunities through improving transport links, streamlining border controls, and deepening regional economic integration in East Africa. The money will be availed through a framework called the Regional East Africa Integration Programme (REAP) which is part of the Department for International Development (DFID)'s global aid for trade strategy.

The UK will support implementation of the EAC's Development Strategy 2006-2010 through technical assistance and grants of up to \$3m per year to the EAC Partnership Fund.

"Tanzania and Kenyan ports and markets are already an economic umbilical cord for imports and exports, but red tape and lack of infrastructure means that there are still too many barriers to enable East Africa to compete successfully in the global market. "REAP is a vital step forward as it will provide such practical and tangible help for local people to trade easier, faster and in greater quantities," an EAC communiqué quoted Thomas as saying. Will also tackle challenges including the region's small fragmented markets, inadequate infrastructure, high transport costs, difficult customs procedures and bottlenecks at ports and borders.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200812080856.html>

*The African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) Discusses Africa's Expectations from Aid for Trade at Workshop in Bonn. 06.12.08

Participants at the event reflected on the broad definition of AfT, and, within that context, identified a number of priority areas, including, enhancing the economic infrastructure of developing countries, notably regional transit transport corridors, ports infrastructure, farm to market roads, and storage facilities for goods. In that regard, it was noted that support by the donor community could include assistance in project preparation. Other AfT priority areas identified included trade facilitation, industrial policy support, and improving product quality including by establishing standards laboratories. In addition to

exploring the broader definition of AfT, the workshop also examined various thematic areas such as regional cooperation and governance; national economic development; as well as agriculture, fishery and natural resources. For each of these areas, working groups elaborated special challenges and opportunities, lessons learned from past experiences, the role of key actors, and the way forward. Furthermore, participants exchanged views on issues related to monitoring the Aid for Trade initiative. This was preceded by a presentation by the International Trade Centre (ITC) on the subject. GTZ (German Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit), the International Lawyers and Economists against poverty (ILEAP) and the Nordic Consulting Group also made presentations at the workshop. ECA was invited to the workshop in Bonn because of the leading role it plays in the implementation of AfT related activities in Africa. For instance, the Commission is part of a Working Group comprising of representatives of the African Development Bank (AfDB), ECA and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) established to undertake the following tasks: Identify bankable regional and national projects in the priority areas of infrastructure, trade facilitation and standards (SPS) related issues; Coordinate with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and individual countries to agree on which among the identified bankable projects are ready for support, including their implementation time frame; Establish an African AFT network, comprising of AfDB, ECA, WTO, major donors, representatives of beneficiary governments and RECs; and Contribute to the review of and development of monitoring and evaluation indicators for the implementation and effectiveness of the AFT.

<http://appablog.wordpress.com/2008/12/06/the-african-trade-policy-centre-atpc-discusses-africa%e2%80%99s-expectations-from-aid-for-trade-at-workshop-in-bonn/>

*Détournements de fonds au ministère de l'Agriculture ?

Une organisation camerounaise, l'AcDic, a dénoncé mercredi des détournements de fonds destinés aux agriculteurs par des agents du ministère de l'Agriculture, lors du lancement de sa campagne anti-corruption à Yaoundé. Des fonctionnaires du ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement rural (Minader) ont mis en place "un système de détournements" pour capter les financements destinés aux paysans, a expliqué Bernard Njonga, ingénieur agronome et président de l'Association citoyenne de défense des intérêts collectifs (AcDic).

Au Cameroun, la corruption handicape l'agriculture. ACIDI. AFP. 05.12.08

See also:

[Gestion du matériel et des finances Détournement de 1,2 milliard ...](#)

Le Messager - Douala, Cameroon

L'AcDic qui a mené cette enquête a finalement tenu sa rencontre avec les médias en cachette, après moult péripéties. C'est à leur arrivée à l'hôtel Hilton ...

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[Détournements de fonds au ministère de l'Agriculture ?](#)

Afrique Centrale.info - France

Une organisation camerounaise, l'AcDic, a dénoncé mercredi des détournements de fonds destinés aux agriculteurs par des agents du ministère de l'Agriculture ...

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*No agreement on EPA at SACU Council of Ministers meeting. 05.12.08

The SACU Council of Ministers held their yearend meeting in Walvis Bay Namibia on Friday 05 December. This meeting, which was the last for the year was preceded by a meeting of Permanent Secretaries of Finance and Trade (Customs Union Commission) from the SACU Member States from the 1st to the 3rd of December 2008 and Ministers of Trade on Thursday the 4th December 2008.

One of the main points on Friday's agenda was the difference among SACU member states over trade negotiations with the European Union (EU). A long-standing row between South Africa and its neighbours over the terms of the trade deal have raised the spectre of a split in SACU.

In our previous hotseat comments we explored the implications for Lesotho, should a split occur and the need for a public and transparent debate about the future of SACU. Bearing in mind that the impasse on EPAs was not resolved at the Friday meeting. What can we expect in the coming New Year and is the future of SACU severely threatened at this juncture?

[http://www.tralac.org/cgi-](http://www.tralac.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&cause_id=1694&news_id=57333&cat_id=1059)

[bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&cause_id=1694&news_id=57333&cat_id=1059](http://www.tralac.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&cause_id=1694&news_id=57333&cat_id=1059)

*SACU sets negotiation agenda. Namibia Economist Fri 05 Dec 2008

Member states in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) - Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa - met in Walvis Bay, Namibia last week to discuss SACU's trade negotiating agenda. The meeting involved SACU senior officials responsible for trade and ministers responsible for trade. The aim of the consultations was to review and discuss SACU's ongoing engagement in trade negotiations with various thirds parties with a view of consolidating negotiation positions; developing work programmes for SACU's ongoing and future trade negotiations and agreeing on time frames for future trade consultations of this kind. "The SACU Members States joint Consultations on Trade Negotiations have been an important part of SACU Trade Negotiations in the past and will, in future, remain a prominent item on the SACU Agenda," SACU said in a statement released at the end of the meeting. Several sets of Trade Negotiations are on SACU's agenda including the resumption of the WTO Doha Round negotiations which stalled in July 2006; the SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiations with the European Union (EU); ongoing SACU negotiations to finalise a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between SACU and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA); discussions with the United States (US) on a possible Trade, Investment and Development Cooperation agreement (TIDCA); the envisaged trade negotiations with India and SACU's trade liberalisation commitments under the SADC Trade Protocol. Under the 2002 SACU Agreement, member states have agreed to negotiate future trade agreements with third parties as a block. The Walvis Bay meeting also deliberated on the progress with respect to the establishment of the SACU National bodies, SACU Tariff Board and SACU Tribunal. "SACU as a block has already successfully negotiated in the SADC Trade Protocol negotiations. SACU as a block has also signed a Preferential Trade Agreement with MERCOSUR which comprises of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay; and a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which consists of Iceland, Liechtenstein,

Norway and Switzerland,” said the statement. SACU was established through the 1910 Customs Union Agreement. The 1910 Agreement was re-negotiated leading to the 1969 Agreement. The Agreement was further re-negotiated in 1994 leading to the current agreement that came into force on 15 July 2004.

<http://www.economist.com.na/content/view/126/33/1/1/>

*SACU Council of Ministers Meeting – 05 December 2008,
Walvis Bay, Namibia. Agenda

<http://www.sacu.int/docs/pr/2008/pr1203.pdf>

*L'UE toujours empêtrée dans ses négociations commerciales avec l'Afrique. AFP.
05.12.08

ECDPM's San Bilal quoted

BRUXELLES (AFP) — Les Africains rechignent toujours à signer avec l'UE de nouveaux accords commerciaux destinés à ouvrir leurs économies fragiles, d'autant plus que la crise économique risque de réduire sensiblement l'aide au développement qu'ils recevront de l'Europe.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g_IKYyEBzOpnu6IDjQP0Eq10dqvw

*ESA EPA Update. COMESA E-Newsletter. 05.12.08

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51523&cat_id=6364

*Tanzania's stance stalls integration plans in EAC. 05.12.08

http://www.tralac.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&cause_id=1694&news_id=57100&cat_id=1026

*Afrique Centrale. Salon international de l'Entreprise (PROMOTE 2008). 05.12.08

<http://promote2008.org/>

*Implications for Lesotho if SACU collapses. Tralac. 04.12.08

http://www.tralac.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&cause_id=1694&news_id=57020&cat_id=1059

*Concerns remain over EPAs, as Pacific ACP delegates meet

Posted at 02:15 on 04 December, 2008 UTC

Pacific representatives from the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have reiterated their concern over the implications for development in signing trade deals with the European Union.

The concerns were expressed at talks this week between EU parliamentarians and their ACP counterparts in Vanuatu's capital Port Vila.

Our correspondent in Vanuatu, Len Garae, reports that Pacific countries have called on the EU to confirm their development aid commitments before they sign Economic Partnership Agreements.

“They have not agreed to a time frame when to sign the agreement because there are pressing issues that still need to be clarified, for example they feel that the EU has to define the word development - especially in countries where there is not much development - so what’s the EU going to do? And Sir John Kaputin, the secretary-general of the ACP, has already left the country but that is his concern that member countries need to really understand what it all means, and he’s hoping that the agreement is going to be signed later on this year.”

<http://www.rnzi.com/pages/news.php?op=read&id=43487>

*UK launches Aid for Trade Strategy - helping countries grow through trade

4 December 2008

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/aid-for-trade-strategy.asp>

*UK Aid for trade strategy: Sharing the benefits of trade

Dfid, December 2008

The overarching aim of the Strategy is "to help boost global prosperity and inclusive growth, by expanding capacity to trade within the poorest countries and to help them integrate into the global economy, while easing the costs of this adjustment."

More specifically, "a priority will be working with EU partners to support successful implementation of the new EPAs, which we want to deliver sustainable benefits for ACP countries and regions. We will help to build the capacity of these countries to analyse and negotiate favourable deals. We will also explore options to promote EPA implementation and adjustment

needs in line with the EU Aid for Trade Strategy."

Document (EN): [Dfid EN 1208 AftStrategy-Sharing-the-benefits-of-trade.pdf](#)

External link (EN): http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/Aid_for_trade.pdf

*Hearing at the European Parliament on 04 December 2008 on the Economic Partnership Agreement EU-CARIFORUM. Experts Statements

By Dr Mareike Meyn, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51527&cat_id=6364

And

Brewster

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51528&cat_id=6364

And

Guyana Ambassador

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51529&cat_id=6364

and

Barbados Ambassador

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51530&cat_id=6364

*A stakeholder meeting was held on Wednesday 3rd December 2008, as part of a fact finding mission for the UNCTAD Pilot Project on Strengthening the Creative Industries. Designed and developed by specialist from the three participating agencies (UNCTAD, ILO, UNESCO), the project will feature target activities aimed at increasing the capacities and competitiveness of creative industries in five countries (Fiji, Mozambique, Senegal, Zambia, and Trinidad and Tobago), and their expansion through employment and trade. The activities include work with Government officials, entrepreneurs in the entertainment and cultural fields, and creators of art, music, literature, and film. This project is consistent with government's policy of growing our export potential in non-traditional areas, to strengthen our competitiveness and exports of our rich and diverse cultural products. The first phase of the project consists of a series of analyses, leading to recommendations on how to use the creative industries to help create jobs and promote trade, with the overall objective of boosting economic growth and reducing poverty. The second phase will provide technical assistance for implementing the recommended activities and for follow-up and monitoring. The intent of the pilot project is to offer an example of effective methods for stimulating the creative economies of developing countries.

The meeting consisted of three roundtables:-

- 1) State of Play in Trinidad and Tobago: Challenges and opportunities faced by the creative sectors:- audio-visual, visual and performing arts, music, festivities, publishing and media etc.
- 2) Government strategies and other programmes from representatives of ministries and related institutions
- 3) What is needed? Strategies to reinforce the creative industries, based on priorities and cross-cutting issues

A few of the issues/concerns raised at the meeting are:-

- i) Regulatory Framework e.g. Local Content
- ii) Mechanism to identify New Markets e.g. Diaspora
- iii) Innovation
- iv) Mechanisms for Finance
- v) New business models

*Caribbean EPA Implementation. Matters Related to Institutional Arrangements. Statement by the Dominican Republic.

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51524&cat_id=6364

*Sacu meets over EPAs as January EU deadline looms. 03.12.08

The Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) met in Namibia to try and reach a consensus on the EPA which the EC is pushing for the agreement to be signed by January. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) DG Tshediso Matona stated that South Africa felt that the draft EPA was not mutually beneficial and that provisions in the document were at odds with various government policies. "The other countries in Sacu may not see matters in the same way, and it is understandable because our economy is different. South Africa is the largest economy in the region and in the customs union, it is much more complex and diversified." It was because of this that the interests of member

countries of Sacu, South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and Swaziland, would not always coincide, and that it was not up to South Africa to dictate which position to take, Matona noted. "Any suggestion that we are a bully is without any foundation," he said. Under the trade policy signed by Sacu members, no member of the union could enter third party agreements without all the members being jointly informed and taking part in joint negotiations. "Ideally, there should be a consensus within the union with regard to what stance we take, not only in relation to the EU, but also in regard to negotiations with the World Trade Organisation," Matona said. He added that South Africa has informed the EU that it should respect the region's integration agenda, and should not allow its own interests with regard to a trade relationship with Africa, to upset or fragment the region. However, Matona insisted that Sacu had not taken a decision to dissolve itself, and South Africa has not considered withdrawing from the union. "The customs union still remains in place and the agreements still remain in place. I am hoping that during the meeting over the weekend, we find each other with regard to our relationship with the EU."

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/sacu-meets-over-epas-as-january-eu-deadline-looms-2008-12-03>

*South Africa stance on EPAs damaging regional integration says analyst. 03.12.08
A TRADE analyst says SA's position on the most-favoured nation clause was wholly indefensible.

In terms of the Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA), under which SA trades with the EU, tariffs on all goods, except agriculture, chemicals, clothing and textiles and cars, will be fully liberalised by 2012. SA's plans to diversify trade related to its pursuit of south-south partnerships. SA is exploring the viability of trade pacts with major economies such as India and China, while it has already concluded a preferential trade deal with Mercosur, comprising Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. However, it was impossible that SA would extend preferences to these trading partners in the sensitive sectors, shielded to the EU, the analyst said. Moreover, the goal of a trade deal with Mercosur was scaled back. During the talks Brazil sought easier access for cars -- a request SA refused.

"Would SA want to extend preferences to China on clothing and textiles? Or to India on chemicals? SA has no leg to stand on," the analyst said.

A source close to the negotiations said a mere 21 agricultural and agro-processed products would offer better treatment under the EPA than the TDCA. These products under both agreements would be fully liberalised by 2012, meaning the tariff structure would be in harmony, negating criticism that two different trade regimes would exist with the EU.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200812030088.html>

*Mauritian Foreign Affairs and International Trade Minister Arvin Boolell told Parliament here Tuesday that the conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is critical for Mauritius given that the EU is its main trading partner, accounting for two-thirds of its exports. Answering a parliamentary question, Boolell said it was in the interest of Mauritius to enter into an ambitious, predictable, legally binding and

WTO-compatible Agreement with the EU. "We are fully committed to concluding such an EPA that supports Mauritius on its development path," he declared. 02.12.08
<http://www.afriquenligne.fr/news/africa-news/mauritius-committed-to-concluding-epa-with-eu-2008120217313.html>

*IGAD to become a Free Trade Area in 2009
02.12.08
http://www.tralac.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_news_item&cause_id=1694&news_id=56848&cat_id=1026

*Caricom SG downplays Caribbean EPA funding concerns. BBC. 02.12.08
Caricom's point man on trade has sought to downplay concerns that member nations are

Secretary General Edwin Carrington was quoted this week as saying that Caricom nations were expecting more than the 212 million dollars announced by the EU for the next five years.

But Irwin Larocque, the Secretariat's assistant secretary general for regional trade, said attaching a dollar figure was not considered.

Speaking in Grenada, he said they were more concerned about support for the development of the region's private and productive sectors as preferences were ending. unhappy with the funding allocated by the European Union under a new trade agreement. Caricom leaders have yet to comment publicly on the funds for the region announced by Europe under the economic partnership agreement

02.12.08
http://www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/news/story/2008/12/081202_newsinbriefpm.shtml

*La société civile ouest-africaine réproûve la signature d'APE 'intermédiaires'. 01.12.08
Au moment même où la société civile africaine se réunissait à Niamey dans le cadre de la 5-ème édition du Forum Social Africain (FSA, 25 au 28 novembre), avec comme un de ses slogans "Non aux APE" (Accords de partenariat économiques), la Côte d'Ivoire annonçait la signature d'un APE intérimaire avec l'Union européenne.
<http://www.ouestaf.com/La-societe-civile-ouest-africaine-reprouve-la-signature-d-APE-intermediaires- a2181.html>

*Caricom says EPA funds not enough. BBC. 01.12.08
Caricom countries say a \$212 million aid package is not enough to help implement the economic partnership agreement with the European Union.
Caricom Secretary General Edwin Carrington says nations were surprised at the amount, although no specific figure had been outlined in the recently signed accord.
The EPA ends quotas on Caribbean products entering Europe.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/caribbean/news/story/2008/12/081201_nibdec01am.shtml

*EC Development Commissioner on Aid for Trade. 01.12.08
http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/michel/Press/docs/speeches/2008/LM_speech_aid_for_trade_20081201.pdf

*Opening West African markets to EU risky for regional integration. 01.12.08
Ouestafnews - L'ouverture du marché ouest-africain aux produits venant d'Europe comporte le risque de compromettre le processus d'intégration, avertit un inspecteur des douanes sénégalaises qui met en garde contre la possibilité de la disparition de l'économie de sous-région, a appris Ouestafnews de source informée.
http://www.ouestaf.com/accord-de-partenariat-economique-avec-l-europe-l-ouverture-du-marche-ouest-africain-compromet-l-integration,-selon-un_a2177.html

*Imbalanced EPA Trade Negotiations: “WTO-Plus” Requirements
Peter Lunenborg. South Centre Bulletin. 01.12.08
http://74.125.77.132/search?q=cache:G5gr_U9uuDYJ:www.southcentre.org/index.php%3Foption%3Dcom_docman%26task%3Ddoc_download%26gid%3D1187%26Itemid%3D+Imbalanced+EPA+Trade+Negotiations:+%E2%80%9CWTO-Plus%E2%80%9D+Requirements+Peter+Lunenborg+south+bulletin&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1

*Tensions over EPAs in SADC Region. 01.12.08
Bitterness is rising in the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) over SA’s perceived hardline approach to its poorer neighbours in the region. While Namibia is seen as politically aligned with SA, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland have been angered by SA’s stance on an economic partnership agreement (EPA) being negotiated with the European Union (EU). A consultant working in the region said SA’s stance on the EPA had caused “untold damage” in the region. “People in the region come back from negotiations with a lot of antagonism towards SA. There is much bitterness. There has to be a different approach in SA,” Mark Bennett, a trade and industrial consultant, told a South African Institute of International Affairs conference on regional integration last week. Citing the examples of SA’s implementation of the quotas on Chinese clothing and fabric imports, the Motor Industry Development Programme (MIDP) review and SA’s comprehensive review of the tariff book, Bennett said: “Sending other countries a fax saying that these are going to happen is not meaningful consultation.” Botswana, which is less dependent on funds from the customs revenue pool, has now started flexing its muscle against SA. Botswana Trade and Industry Minister Neo Moroka told reporters in Gaborone last week that SA could no longer be allowed to “behave like Big Brother in Sacu” and do as it wished.
<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/topstories.aspx?ID=BD4A895853>

*Southern Africa countries face renewed pressure to sign far-reaching EPAs. 12.08
Inside Southern African Trade. Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub
<http://www.satradehub.org/index.php?id=2410>

*Regional Integration and Security in Central Africa – Assessment and Perspectives 10 Years after the Revival. Egmont Paper 25 by Angela Meyer
<http://www.egmontinstitute.be/paperegm/ep25.pdf>

*EPAs trample Africa WTO position on commodities. South Centre. 12.08

South Bulletin: Reflections and Foresights (Issue 28, 1 December 2008) - A Case For Radical Reform of the World Trade Organisation

Every European Partnership Agreement contains clauses which trample on the African Group's position and the July 2008 modalities on commodities agreed at the World Trade Organisation, according to the South Centre.

This is the conclusion of an article by Peter Lunenborg, just published in the Centre's South Bulletin and available at

www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=903&Itemid=105.

*Analysis of Contents of the CARIFORUM and Pacific ACP Economic Partnership Agreements and Challenges Ahead. Final Report. ODI
12.08

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/files/185769/FileName/CFTC-EAD-BCWG-208FinalReport.pdf>

*The EC-CARIFORUM EPA has been notified to the WTO and has been placed in the category of Regional Trade Agreements for which factual presentation is on hold because it includes non-Members of the WTO (Bahamas...), Such inclusion has implications on the examination process for which there is no consensus yet in the WTO on how to proceed. The issue is still under consideration in the WTO. 12.08

*Fisheries Aspects of ACP-EU Interim Economic Partnership Agreements: Trade and Sustainable Development Implications.
Campling, L. (2008). ICTSD Series on Fisheries, Trade and Sustainable Development. Issue Paper No. 6, Geneva: International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development.
<http://ictsd.net/i/publications/33418/>

*REPORT (2008) OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL
http://www.wtocommerce.org.tw/SmartKMS/do/www/readDoc?document_id=96348

*COMESA is launching a Trade Point Project to expand trade opportunities, and avail information to the business community. E-COMESA Newsletter. 28.11.08
http://about.comesa.int/attachments/080_e-COMESA_newsletter_182.pdf

*Former Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur has urged regional leaders to ensure that the Caribbean Community Single Market and Economy (CSME) is in place on schedule by 2015. Further delays in finalising the economic component of the regional integration project, he argues, would negatively affect the region's ability to cope with globalisation and damage trade with other regions, including the European Union (EU) which recently finalised a new Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the Caribbean. "Failure to carry out regional economic and financial liberalisation, as contemplated under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (the CARICOM)", he warns, "will compromise severely the region's capacity to take advantage of new economic partnership agreements with its major trading partners, or to fit the regional economy into

the evolving global economy. The implementation of the provisions of the EPA and the completion of the work to make CARICOM a Single Market and Economy ideally are initiatives which must go hand in hand for both to be successful”, he added during an address to the 35th Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Association of Indigenous Banks. While acknowledging that the EPA is not perfect, the former Barbados Prime Minister said that “the greatest challenge that the region may face in taking advantage of the provisions of the EPA may come not from these challenges, but from the region's tardiness in putting its own house in order in respect to its regional initiative to become a single economy”.

Caribbean Council Caribbean Insight 27.11.08

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51533&cat_id=6364

*WTO does not accept that EPA banana preferences are WTO compatible. 27.11.08

The European Union “accepts the ruling of the Appellate Body” and considers the Doha Round on trade liberalisation to be “the right forum” to find a resolution to this problem, The Commission said that the preferences given to ACP countries had been granted since 1 January 2008 by EPAs or IEPAs that met WTO requirements. The WTO did not accept this argument. (E.H./transl.rt) (Agence Europe)

*The Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) made the following recommendations to the ACP EU JPA in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

The Pacific Network on Globalisation believes that the EU-PACP Economic Partnership Agreement has the potential to seriously damage the economies of Pacific Island States and will drastically reduce policy options available to Pacific governments to stimulate development in the region. PACP countries should have the right to maintain their own sovereignty, and the ability to make their own decisions about trade and development policy. They should, for example, retain the ability to use investment regulations, tariff barriers and export restrictions to promote equitable, local and sustainable economic development. Given that the EU-PACP Economic Partnership Agreement proposed by the EU will strip Pacific governments of these policy choices, and that any new EPA will set a poor precedent for negotiation of a new trade agreement with major trading partners Australia and New Zealand, the current EPA negotiations should be stopped. The European Parliament should immediately call upon the European Commission to stop: Placing any kind of pressure on PACP negotiators to conclude a comprehensive EPA under the guise of ‘development’; and,

Imposing arbitrary deadlines for the completion of negotiations. Instead, the EU and its member states should: Implement a full review of the EU’s approach to EPA negotiations with the Pacific, placing sustainable development for the poor at the heart of this review; Commit to exploring feasible political alternatives, such as improving the EU’s General System of Preferences (GSP) to allow Pacific states to maintain market access to the EU; Respect the decisions of Pacific Trade Ministers, who do not want to negotiate issues of services, investment, intellectual property, and government procurement at this time; and, Allow a renegotiation of elements of the Interim EPAs initialled in haste by Papua New Guinea and Fiji, under threat of tariff increases on important Pacific exports (especially provisions relating to export taxes and infant industry protections). Pacific

ACP states should: Implement a region-wide review of the implications of the EU's proposed comprehensive EPA, assessing implications for the sustainable development of Pacific economies and the environment; Formally request that the European Commission offer alternatives (such as improvements on the EU's General System of Preferences) to meet the EU's obligations under the Cotonou Agreement that no country would be left worse off if they choose not to sign an EPA; Allow full public debate, and parliamentary debate, of the EU's proposed Economic Partnership Agreements *before any EPA is signed*; and, Refuse to enter into free trade negotiations with Australia and NZ until the above review and parliamentary debate have been conducted, and full assessments have been made of alternatives to a reciprocal free trade agreement. Finally, if the European Union fails to offer a new trade agreement that places development at its heart, including maintaining policy space for development and respecting Pacific peoples' right to make their own choices about trade policy, Pacific leaders should refuse to sign an Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union.

*EC says EPAs are all about regional integration. 24.11.08

by KABO MOKGOABONE IN FRANCE

24.11.2008 5:21:55 P

STRASBOURG: A senior European Union (EU) official said here on Monday that the hotly debated issue of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) being negotiated between the world's largest integrated block and SADC, amongst others, is meant to promote regional integration.

Bernard Petit, Deputy Director General of the DG Development of the EU, said here that the move is also in line with the World Trade Organisations (WTO) rules.

"The talk has been dogmatic in the academia and the media on how the poor countries of the Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) could open their markets to the developed world," wondered Petit. "For 30 years, the ACP had benefited from free market in the EU and we realised that they have now lost the market to Asia and India."

http://sundaystandard.info/news/news_item.php?NewsID=4065&GroupID=3

*West African NGOs stress development should be focus of EPAs. 20.11.08

Coalition of West African Regional Civil Society, made up of Trade World Network (TWN), based in Accra, Ghana, National Association of Nigerian Traders, Abuja, Labour Unions, farmers' groups, etc, has stressed that the region's development should be the sole purpose of the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). Making this known recently through its 'contributions on the EPA negotiations process', the coalition insists that regional development and integration should be taken into account in the agreement both in form and in substance, just as is the case with the special and differential treatment in the WTO texts. According to the information gathered from the headquarters of the National Association of Nigerian Traders, Abuja, the group affirmed that the heads of state in the region have given an explicit mandate to ensure that the agreement is rooted in the region's vision of integration and development, recalling that the latest ministerial monitoring committee held in Nouakchott in February also re-affirmed such a political will. For the civil-society platform, the group stressed the 'development' potential of the EPA, if it exists, can by no means be in the signing of a free trade agreement whose asymmetric character is widely doubtful, on the one hand, and the

compilation of the EPA development programme (PAPED), consisting of a list of infrastructure projects attached to that agreement, on the other.

Source: allafrica.com

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200811200553.html>

*EC reply to written question from David Martin, MEP on Aid for Trade. 10.11.08
The Commission is in the process of finalising the programming process for the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) National Indicative Programmes and the Regional Indicative Programme in the Cariforum area. A majority of the National Indicative Programmes under the 10th EDF are oriented towards activities linked to fostering regional integration and the Economic Partnership Agreement: 8 programmes will focus on economic growth, regional integration and trade, including infrastructure, 9 programmes will contribute to governance and economic and institutional reform and competitiveness. In total, this concerns over EUR 480 million out of the EUR 738 million available for National Indicative Programmes. In addition, the Regional Indicative Programme with an allocation of EUR 165 million will be mainly focused on providing support to regional integration and cooperation among Cariforum countries taking into account the needs related to the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) which is considered to be the main vehicle for regional integration. As to disbursement mechanisms, the Commission has repeatedly highlighted the potential benefits of a regional development fund, accessible to all Cariforum States allowing for pool funding in support of programmes in Cariforum countries. The Commission is awaiting the necessary decisions to be taken by the region in this regard to create the fund and to make it effectively working and capable to manage funding.

In the 'Joint Declaration on Development Cooperation' of the EPA Agreement the Parties '... recognise that the funds allocated to the Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme (CRIP) in the 10th EDF are to be complemented by Aid for Trade contributions by Member States of the European Union (EU).' EU Member States are committed to reach an annual amount of EUR 1 billion by 2010 in trade-related assistance (which is only a part of Aid for Trade), with a range of 50 % available for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. In line with the EU Council Conclusions of 27 May 2008, the Commission has taken the initiative for a joint design with ACP partners of specific regional Aid-for-Trade packages that include EPA accompanying measures, building on the 10th EDF regional programming process and in which EU Member states have committed to participate. The design of these packages is ongoing; a final indication on the additional funds available for the Caribbean region is therefore not available yet. Capacity building in order to assist the institutions and other bodies and organisations of Cariforum to respond to the challenges posed by global trade and new economic realities including the EPA has been requested by the region and will be an integral part of the programme.

The approach taken to public education and outreach programmes has been to build this into EPA related support activities as an integral component rather than specific requests. These include the awareness raising on impact assessments that were carried out in Cariforum countries, support for civil society engagement in the EPAs and specific consultancy activities linked to awareness raising on the various aspects and issues

relating to the EPA and its importance in the process of regional integration and enhancing economic growth.

*The CARICOM Task Force on CARICOM–Dominican Republic Relations, set up in 2007, held its first meeting in early November at the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown. The task force will recommend how to improve relations between CARICOM and the Dominican Republic, including the relationship within CARIFORUM. Addressing the meeting, CARICOM Secretary-General Edwin Carrington noted that despite various initiatives over the years, including the signing of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement this year, there remained obstacles to the relationship. Chief among them, he said, was the “failure on both sides to implement to any significant degree, the provisions of the Free Trade Agreement,” and he urged the Task Force to examine this and other issues over the next few months, with a view to making “solid recommendations for the Conference of Heads of Government.” The task force will, among other things, analyse the political, socioeconomic and commercial relations between the Dominican Republic and CARICOM, how the Caribbean Community would be affected by closer relations with the DR, and a cost-benefit analysis on strengthening relations between the two. Chairman of the Task Force is Ambassador Arthur Thompson.

*Communiqué Final Réunion des Ministres chargés des Affaires Etrangères, de la Sécurité, du Tourisme et de l'Intégration Régionale des Etats membres de l'UEMOA (Dakar, 20 novembre 2008)
http://www.uemoa.int/actualite/2008/Communique_final_misitres_affaires_etrangeres20112008.pdf

*Réunion des Ministres chargés du Commerce des Etats membres de l'UEMOA
A l'initiative de la Commission, les Ministres chargés du Commerce des Etats membres UEMOA se sont réunis jeudi 13 novembre 2008 à Ouagadougou, pour une concertation sur l'évolution des principaux dossiers relatifs à la mise en oeuvre de la politique commerciale commune de l'Union, en vue d'en analyser les enjeux pour les intérêts des Etats membres de l'Union.
<http://www.uemoa.int/BullInfo/Bull222.pdf>

*ECA-ATC October EPA Workshop. Documents and presentations.
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)-African Trade Centre (ATC) meeting on EPAs entitled 'African Workshop on Economic Partnership Agreements – the benefits of the EPAs: Taking Stock of the Interim Agreements to ensure African Countries Reap the Benefits of the EPAs' on 8 – 10 October 2008 in Addis Ababa. Those attending the meeting included many government negotiators based in capitals but also in Brussels. The meeting was essentially an attempt to respond to an African Heads of States request for a template for Africa in the EPA negotiations. As such, the ECA invited a number of experts to address various issues raised in the interim EPA agreements, and also to provide ideas and comments in the discussions on an African EPA template. Documents and presentations on Economic Partnership Agreements have been posted here:
http://www.uneca.org/atpc2/epa_presentations.asp

***Towards the African Template for Economic Partnership Agreements**

Presented at the African Workshop on Economic Partnership, "Taking Stock of the Interim Agreements to ensure African Countries Reap the Benefits of the EPAs", 8-10 October 2008, Africa Trade Policy Centre (UNECA).

What follows are recommendations that a final template should consider in the various areas under negotiations. Indications are given which among the interim-EPAs approximate the Common African positions as earlier agreed during AU Ministers of Trade Conferences. The provisions in the various chapters of the proposed inclusions to the African template are based on the explanatory notes and recommendations in the remainder of this brief. It is recommended that this template be read together with the comprehensive study on the interim EPAs, entitled "North-South FTAs After all, A Comprehensive and Critical Analysis of the Interim Economic Partnership Agreements" (April 2008).

Document (EN): [ECA_EN_081008_ATPC_African-Template-for-EPAs.pdf](#)

External link (EN): http://www.uneca.org/atpc2/EPA_presentations/EPA_template.pdf

Author(s): UNECA

Additional resources:

[North-South FTAs After all? A Comprehensive and Critical Analysis of the Interim Economic Partnership Agreements Explanatory Notes and Recommendations](#)

***Meeting Report and Conclusions of the African Workshop on Economic Partnership Agreements: Reaping the benefits of EPAs**

8-10 October, Addis Ababa

The workshop was aimed at: taking stock of the results of EPAs negotiations in the light of what African countries had hoped to achieve; evaluating how the progress towards the African Economic Community is likely to be affected and more specifically, discussing and improving elements of a draft template for a pro-development EPA prepared by ATPC, to feed into the African Union's effort towards a consolidated EPAs template for the continent.

The Report highlights the main conclusions and recommendations from the plenary sessions, arising from presentations by UNECA, Commonwealth Secretariat, UNCTAD, FAO, ECDPM, ICTSD, South Centre and ITC on the following topics: interim EPAs, regional integration, trade and environment and trade and labour, issues for consideration for the template, African common market for agricultural food products, institutional setting and monitoring, MFN Clause and article XXIV, safeguard issues and the private sector perspective on the EPAs.

Document (EN): [ECA_EN_081008_ATPC_Meeting-Report-African-Template-for-EPAs.pdf](#)

External link (EN):

http://www.uneca.org/atpc2/EPA_presentations/EPA%20report%20and%20conclusion%20final%2030%2010%2008.pdf

Private Sector Issues

*Afrique Centrale. Salon international de l'Entreprise (PROMOTE 2008). 05.12.08
<http://promote2008.org/>

*PACIFIC REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION PROGRAMME (PACREIP)
PROVIDES TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO FIC TRADE AND
PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT
<http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2008/pacreip-supports-fic-trade-private-sector.html>

*Zambia. EIB lends EUR 20 million to support small businesses. 26.11.08
<http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2008/2008-111-zambia-eib-lends-eur-20-million-to-support-small-businesses.htm>

*A Better Future for Africa. Africa Commission. Recommendations from the private sector. 12.08

Publication prepared by Confederation of Danish Industry In collaboration with:
Botswana Confederation of Commerce, Industry and Manpower
Confederation of Business Associations of Mozambique
Confederation of Tanzania Industries
Kenya Association of Manufacturers
Rwanda Private Sector Federation
South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Uganda Manufacturers Association
Zambia Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Introduction

Trade Facilitation

Transport and energy infrastructure

Access to finance and cost of capital

Knowledge

Five challenges have been identified by the eight African business associations as those holding the largest potential for growth and job creation:

Trade facilitation

Infrastructure

Access to finance

Knowledge and technology

Economic empowerment of women

http://www.africacommission.um.dk/NR/rdonlyres/158D7EFD-4B58-41F6-A9AA-67710F8E54DC/0/AbetterfutureforAfrica_net.pdf

General Trade-WTO Issues

*EC currently working on this

Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the

external dimension of the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs : reporting on market access and setting the framework for more effective international regulatory cooperation COM (2008) 874/2 of 11/12/2008

*Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest
Volume 12, Number 42, 10 December 2008
<http://ictsd.net/news/bridgesweekly/>

*EU Council conclusions on reinforcing ESDP capacities, DRC and WTO. 09.12.08
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/fr/gena/104615.pdf

*An EU roadmap to improve the functioning of the food supply chain. 09.12.08
COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT
The functioning of the food supply chain and its effects on food prices
Accompanying document to the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
FOOD PRICES IN EUROPE
Including a roadmap to improve the functioning of the food supply chain
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SEC:2008:2972:FIN:EN:PDF>

*STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT
Task force on the role of speculation in agricultural commodities price Movements. Is there a speculative bubble in commodity markets?
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SEC:2008:2971:FIN:EN:PDF>

*European Commission Decision of 9 December 2008 on the list of the beneficiary countries which qualify for the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance, provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011(notified under document number C(2008) 8028)
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:334:0090:0091:EN:PDF>

*UK launches Aid for Trade Strategy - helping countries grow through trade
4 December 2008
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/aid-for-trade-strategy.asp>

*Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest
Volume 12, Number 41, 3 December 2008
<http://ictsd.net/news/bridgesweekly/>

*EC Development Commissioner on Aid for Trade. 01.12.08
http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/michel/Press/docs/speeches/2008/LM_speech_aid_for_trade_20081201.pdf

*Call for markets to be opened up to EU businesses. 01.12.08

Speaking at a conference on access to the market organised by the French Presidency and attended by MEDEF and BusinessEurope, in Paris on 29 November, EC Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton pleaded for the markets to be opened up to European businesses. If the European representatives of the business world stressed the obstacles to export which they have encountered (non-tariff barriers, protection of intellectual property and obstacles to the trade in services), the Trade Commissioner stressed the commitment taken in mid-November by the governments of the main world economies of the G20 to guarantee the opening-up of their markets to trade and investments. Ms Ashton also stressed the need to conclude the Doha Round before the end of the year. At this stage in the multilateral negotiations, the President of BusinessEurope, Ernest Antoine Seillière, stressed the importance of highlighting access to the industrial markets (NAMA), particularly sectorial agreements allowing the total removal of tariff barriers in 14 sectors, including automotives, chemical products, electronics, machinery, raw materials, toys and textiles. Lastly, Ms Ashton raised the subject of the new decentralised partnership launched in April 2007 between the Commission, the Member States of the EU and European industry to improve access to third-country markets in favour of European businesses (EUROPE 9409). According to the Commissioner, teams set up at local level to identify barriers to trade are active in no fewer than 30 emerging markets. The Commission is continuing its efforts to improve the database and information services and to set up a new online register of complaints for European businesses. Among recent examples illustrating the success of this strategy, the Commission listed: - a joint action on the part of industry and the Member States to urge the Japanese authorities to take action on obstacles to trade in vaccines; - the pressure brought to bear on the South Korean authorities to abandon their requirement for the obligatory bottling of wines and spirits, which restricts the access to the market of European whisky producers; - the creation of a working group to improve access to the tyre market in China, Indonesia and India. (E.H./trans.fl) Brussels, 01/12/2008 (Agence Europe)

*The World Bank's [Global Economic Prospects report](http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/0,,contentMDK:22004555~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:469372,00.html) projects developing country economic growth will slow from 7.9 percent in 2007 to 4.5 percent in 2009. Growth had previously been projected stay strong at 6.5 percent in 2009.
<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/0,,contentMDK:22004555~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:469372,00.html>

*REPORT (2008) OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

http://www.wtocommerce.org.tw/SmartKMS/do/www/readDoc?document_id=96348

*EC reply to written question from David Martin, MEP on Aid for Trade. 10.11.08

The Commission is in the process of finalising the programming process for the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) National Indicative Programmes and the Regional Indicative Programme in the Cariforum area. A majority of the National Indicative Programmes under the 10th EDF are oriented towards activities linked to fostering regional integration and the Economic Partnership Agreement: 8 programmes will focus on economic growth, regional integration and trade, including infrastructure,

9 programmes will contribute to governance and economic and institutional reform and competitiveness. In total, this concerns over EUR 480 million out of the EUR 738 million available for National Indicative Programmes. In addition, the Regional Indicative Programme with an allocation of EUR 165 million will be mainly focused on providing support to regional integration and cooperation among Cariforum countries taking into account the needs related to the implementation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) which is considered to be the main vehicle for regional integration. As to disbursement mechanisms, the Commission has repeatedly highlighted the potential benefits of a regional development fund, accessible to all Cariforum States allowing for pool funding in support of programmes in Cariforum countries. The Commission is awaiting the necessary decisions to be taken by the region in this regard to create the fund and to make it effectively working and capable to manage funding.

In the 'Joint Declaration on Development Cooperation' of the EPA Agreement the Parties '... recognise that the funds allocated to the Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme (CRIP) in the 10th EDF are to be complemented by Aid for Trade contributions by Member States of the European Union (EU).' EU Member States are committed to reach an annual amount of EUR 1 billion by 2010 in trade-related assistance (which is only a part of Aid for Trade), with a range of 50 % available for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. In line with the EU Council Conclusions of 27 May 2008, the Commission has taken the initiative for a joint design with ACP partners of specific regional Aid-for-Trade packages that include EPA accompanying measures, building on the 10th EDF regional programming process and in which EU Member states have committed to participate. The design of these packages is ongoing; a final indication on the additional funds available for the Caribbean region is therefore not available yet. Capacity building in order to assist the institutions and other bodies and organisations of Cariforum to respond to the challenges posed by global trade and new economic realities including the EPA has been requested by the region and will be an integral part of the programme.

The approach taken to public education and outreach programmes has been to build this into EPA related support activities as an integral component rather than specific requests. These include the awareness raising on impact assessments that were carried out in Cariforum countries, support for civil society engagement in the EPAs and specific consultancy activities linked to awareness raising on the various aspects and issues relating to the EPA and its importance in the process of regional integration and enhancing economic growth.

*COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION on the European Competitiveness Report 2008. 28.11.08

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0774:FIN:EN:PDF>

*Symposium Accès au Marché «Ouvrir les Frontières aux Entreprises» avec la participation du Mouvement des Entreprises de France (MEDEF) et de BUSINESSSEUROPE

Paris, 27 novembre 2008

Présentation des intervenants

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/december/tradoc_141677.pdf

*Article XXIV and Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) : How much wiggle room for Developing countries?

South Centre Analytical Note, December 2008

"The issue of 'WTO Compatibility' of regional trade agreements (RTAs) has been intensely debated ever since the days of the GATT. RTAs are governed by Article XXIV in the GATT. The Article however does not have a development dimension. This paper argues for the need to insert strong Special and Differential Treatment clauses into Article XXIV in order to be legally consistent with GATS V. It also looks at the ways in which some WTO Members, especially developed countries, have protected their markets in their RTAs. These are grounds for developing countries to legitimately open up less fully."

Document (EN): [SouthCenter EN 1208 SouthCenter Article-XXIV and RTAs WTO-compatibility.pdf](#)

External link (EN):

http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=901&Itemid=1

*Bilateral and Regional Free Trade Agreements: Some Critical Elements and Development Implications

By MARTIN KHOR Third World Network

Publisher: TWN (ISBN: 978-983-2729-59-4)

Year: 2008

No. of pages: 128

BILATERAL and regional free trade agreements (FTAs) between developed and developing countries are proliferating. They usually contain tariff-reduction commitments and disciplines deeper than at the World Trade Organisation and also contain rules that are not in the WTO.

This book argues that the comprehensive and strict obligations these FTAs impose will seriously constrain the developing-country party's policy-making capacity to pursue national socioeconomic and development goals. As a result of this erosion of policy space and the drastic market-opening demanded by FTAs, no less than the country's development prospects would be undermined.

This book examines the development implications of FTAs for signatory developing countries in each of the major areas typically covered by these agreements, including trade in goods, trade in services, investment, government procurement, competition policy and intellectual property rights. In light of the very real risks posed, developing countries should assess the costs and benefits of an FTA before deciding whether to enter into or conclude negotiations.

The book uses the typical FTA that the United States adopts with developing countries as the main basis of its analysis. FTAs adopted by other developed countries share many of the same features.

How to Order the Book

Order your copy from TWN's online bookstore: <http://www.twinside.org.sg> or contact Third World Network at 131 Jalan Macalister, 10400 Penang, Malaysia, Tel: 604-2266159, Fax: 604-2264505, Email: twnet@po.jaring.my for further information <http://www.twinside.org.sg/title2/books/Bilateral.Regional.Free.Trade.Agreements.htm>

*[The Implementation Game: The TRIPS Agreement and the Global Politics of Intellectual Property Reform in Developing Countries](#), published by Oxford University Press. *The Implementation Game* is the first book-length study of the politics surrounding the implementation of the WTO's Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). It seeks to explain the variation in how developing countries have implemented the treaty, highlighting the influence of global IP debates, international pressures, and political dynamics within developing countries. In so doing, the book exposes how power politics occur not just within global trade talks but afterward when countries implement agreements. *The Implementation Game* will be of interest to all those engaged in debates on the global governance of trade and intellectual property, and the challenges facing developing countries in the global economy. <http://www.oup.com/uk/catalogue/?ci=9780199550616>

*The draft roadmap for the Programme of Work for the ACP Working Group on EPAs Transparency Review at the WTO was presented in October by the Chair of the informal ACP Working Group on EPAs for consideration and decision by ACP Delegations. The aim of this informal Working Group is not to argue substantial issues contained in the EPAs, nor is it to determine the validity of EPAs, but rather to deal with the transparency aspects when those EPAs are concluded by the respective ACP regions and the EC and are notified to the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements (CRTA) in the WTO. The Working Group will prepare a 'Notifications and Review Manual' containing the procedural requirements under the WTO Transparency Mechanism and an indicative list of questions that may be raised during the review of the agreements in the CRTA. It will be updated based on the process and progress of the EPA negotiations and notification procedures in the WTO. The informal Working Group will also be tasked with informing and preparing ACP Geneva delegations for the notification and review of the EPAs through experience-sharing with other developing countries that have undergone a CRTA review, meetings with agencies such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as necessary and engagement with Non-ACP countries that may have concerns during the notification phase of the EPAs.

Non-State Actors, Local Governments, Parliaments

*IN SPITE OF THE WAR: PREPARE THE LOCAL ELECTIONS AND THE DECENTRALISATION IN THE DRC
http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/index.cfm?op=dsp_resource_details&resource_id=51526&cat_id=6363

All the best and Season's Greetings from all of us at ECDPM
www.ecdpm.org/seasonsgreetings,

Melissa