

Weekly Compass

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Editor's Pick

Towards greater African integration: Assessing EU support

The commitment to establish a new African Union Authority is the latest milestone towards what some bill a revitalised Pan African project. But institutional realignments are not enough in themselves to bring to life a United States of Africa. The increasingly active role of the European Union and other external players in this process is another factor that Africa's budding institutions need to learn to accommodate. It remains to be seen whether local and external players can transcend their narrow self-interest for the good of Africa as a whole. It is against this background that the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) together with The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) organised an informal high level seminar on the theme "Building the African Union institutional architecture: Progress achieved, new perspectives and possible support by the European Union" in Uppsala, Sweden on 21 October 2009. The seminar considered three key issues at the heart of African integration: progress in the Pan-African integration agenda; the continuing development of the AU institutional architecture; and the status of key reforms and future challenges. Click [here](#) to read a summary report of the meeting.

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Policy News

The implications of a possible ratification of the Lisbon Treaty for the ACP Group.

A workshop on this issue was held on 16 October to provide ACP Ambassadors with a brief overview of the changes in the EU following from the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty as they are expected to affect EU-ACP relations. In addition the workshop offered a platform for discussion and jointly thinking through the implications of a possible ratification of the Lisbon Treaty for the ACP as a Group. Even though risks for development policy and the ACP-EU relations were identified, many speakers maintained that this should not give rise to bleak projections: It was stressed that the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) - one of the most progressive cooperation frameworks and the largest North-South partnership in the world - remains a stable foundation for ACP-EU relations at least until 2020. Click [here](#) for the summary report of the meeting.

What can the world expect of Europe in 2010? An assemblage of nation states focused on domestic problems or a united community working globally for the

No. 16, 6 November 2009

Dear,

The green light has been given for the EU's Lisbon Treaty to enter into force on 1 December. But much work remains to be done, especially in relation to aspects concerning development cooperation within new EU external relations structures. In addition to the information featured to your left, the Weekly Compass-Extended Version ([link below](#)) provides the current status and next steps in this debate. It also provides information in relation to the outstanding issues in the tense and now pessimistic countdown to the Copenhagen climate meeting in December following the EU heads of government meeting and EU-US Summit and UN meetings held this week. The Weekly Compass-Extended Version also provides links to the EC communication on European Development Fund contributions to 2013; information on the ACP migration facility and global forum on migration development; reports on stakeholders meetings to discuss the EU's Economic Partnership Agreement with West Africa; plans to provide training for the ACP in the field of foodstuff exports to the EU; and much more.

All the best,

Melissa

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Extended version in PDF

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Off the track

Synthesis Study on Best Practices and Innovative Approaches to Capacity Development in Low-Income African Countries. Norwegian

common good?

This article for the Europe's World journal written by ECDPM's Director Paul Engel together with the Overseas Development Institute's Simon Maxwell, the German Development Institute's Dirk Messner, and Pierre Schori of Spain's Fundacion para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Dialogo Exterior, argues that global commitment to collective action is necessary to manage risk and create a greener, more just and equal world. They suggest four areas where analysis of comparative advantage indicates that Europe can make a difference in 2010 - trade, climate, fragile states and aid. By 1 January, Europe will have a new President of the Council, a new and more powerful representative for external affairs, and a new, common diplomatic service. Even more important, the authors write, is the right vision: values-led, global in scope, and ambitious about the potential of working as one. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Hints ahead of next week's EU debates on Policy Coherence for Development.

In a short web video clip from the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA), ECDPM's Director Paul Engel explains what is at stake ahead of discussions on this issue in the European Parliament's Development Committee next week (click [here](#) for the meeting's agenda) and at the 17 November EU General Affairs Council. Click [here](#) to read the draft EU Council conclusions scheduled to be adopted at that meeting which include the proposed outline of a PCD work programme to be adopted in 2010.

100 indicators of well-being or just one?

Oxfam International's Duncan Green reports in his From Poverty to Power blog from discussions at the OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy. He writes that the various presentations described literally hundreds of different indicators already being used to measure progress, and proposed hundreds more. A South African number cruncher lamented that 'an indicator cloud has descended on Africa, creating a fog of confusion', while an EC statistician worried that composite indicators rapidly become a political football as each member state argues for the combination that puts its own performance in the best light meaning you lose comparability both between countries and across time. Green says he started to harbour heretical doubts about the merits of 'bottom up' indicators designed by communities. Click [here](#) to read Green's full report.

New European Commission report on Intellectual Property Rights enforcement outside Europe.

Increased cooperation between the European Union and the developing world is strengthening intellectual property enforcement in poorer countries, according to this new report from the European Commission. The report informs EU businesses of risks they might face regarding the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights outside the EU. This assessment is also a key element for the Commission to define countries/regions on which to focus its activities and resources, namely by establishing an updated list of "priority countries" for strengthening cooperation in this area. Click [here](#) to read the report.

European Commission proposes concrete actions to improve functioning of the food supply chain in Europe.

Together with national authorities, the EC will redouble efforts to ensure that the supply chain works effectively from farm to fork to ensure that EU farmers can make a decent living and that the food supply chain functions well to provide quality and safe food products at affordable prices. The communication identifies

Agency for Development Cooperation. September 2008.

This synthesis study found an extensive literature but little that was relevant to the key development challenge: Capacity Development (CD) for poverty reduction in low-income African countries. While there is little about poverty-relevant or poverty-driven demand for CD, there is even less about sustainable community-relevant CD. People thus do not know as much as is sometimes claimed, and people seem to understand even less. The main Recommendation for the suggested Evaluation is to do this as a structured process including getting Conceptual Frameworks for poverty-relevant, poverty-driven CD in place; doing interviews of informants; compiling a more comprehensive synthesis study, and only then try to identify information gaps and hence the additional information that a field-based Evaluation can provide; and ensuring that the Evaluation becomes a truly joint learning exercise involving partner governments, civil society actors and knowledge networks. Click [here](#) for more.

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significant tensions in contractual relations between actors of the chain, stemming from their diversity and differences in bargaining power. It also highlights the lack of transparency of prices along the food chain as well as the increased volatility of commodity prices. Finally, it shows that the internal market for food is still fragmented across products and Member States. The EC proposes several concrete actions to overcome the challenges identified and improve the functioning of the chain. Click [here](#) to read the EC communication.

African leaders agreed to establish a new court to bring justice to the Sudanese region of Darfur.

The BBC reports that African leaders, meeting in Abuja at the end of October, agreed to the proposals in a report put forward by South Africa's former President Thabo Mbeki. The hybrid court would consist of Sudanese and foreign judges appointed by the African Union in consultation with the Khartoum government. Click [here](#) to read more.

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