

Weekly Compass

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Editor's Pick

World's great development minds call on EU leaders to take historic opportunity to put sustainable development on the right track

Some 5,000 people from around the world - students and civil society organisations to Nobel peace-prize laureates and presidents - discussed how to effectively ensure poverty eradication and sustainable development at this year's "European Development Days" event held from 22-24 October in Stockholm. A full transcript is available on the event's website, but please [click here](#) to read my one-page summary of the key points raised and the suggestions made on what's needed next, particularly from the European Union in the coming days and weeks, to put development cooperation on the right course.

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Policy News

EU Financial Regulation and its Implementing Rules - open consultation to feed into EU 2010 review and prepare new generation of programmes in 2014.

Stakeholders are requested to share practical experiences so that the EC can improve access to grants and simplify its own handling of financial files. This is especially important as the EU begins to prepare the ground for a new generation of programmes in 2014. The EC will present its reform proposals in mid-2010. The public consultation will run until 18 December 2009. Click [here](#) for more information.

ECDPM and ACP Committee of Ambassadors discuss the implications of the EU Lisbon Treaty for ACP-EU cooperation

ECDPM's europafrica newsletter reports on this workshop held on 16 October aimed at providing 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. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Extension of in-country phase of the Mid-Term Review of the 10th European Development. Eurostep reports that according to information from the European Commission, the deadline for Commission delegates in ACP countries for submitting their draft reports to Brussels has been extended to 15 November. The extension is to ensure that there is some engagement with non-state actors in ACP countries so that their views can be included in the reports. Click [here](#) to read the toolkit prepared by

No. 14, 26 October 2009

Dear,

It was nice to see so many EU and ACP colleagues in Stockholm last week at the European Development Days. I've included a one-page summary of the event in this week's Editor's Pick. All the documents related to the event and position papers in relation to it, as well as the latest documents on climate change, Economic Partnership Agreements and other key issues are posted in the *Weekly Compass-Extended Version* which you can click to obtain below.

As this arrives on your desk, EU Ambassadors are conducting their final considerations on the EU Presidency-EC paper on the future European Union External Action Service ahead of EU Heads of Government's consideration of this on Thursday. You'll find the latest information I have on this in the *Weekly Compass-Extended Version* and please be sure to keep an eye on our RSS feeds today and the rest of this week where I'll post the latest information I pick up on this.

All the best,

Melissa

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Extended version in PDF

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Off the track

European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. 2010.

The European Union is one of the richest areas in the world, but still 17% of EU citizens have such limited resources that they cannot afford the basics. Poverty is often associated with developing countries, where a lack of food and

Eurostep on influencing the discussions on Country Strategy Papers.

Democracy and Development: How can both processes mutually reinforce each other? ECDPM.

A plenary session at the European Development Days focused on the complex relationship between democracy and development and how they can reinforce each other mutually. This short [background paper](#) was prepared by ECDPM for the EU Presidency to frame the debate. Based on a rather sobering contextual analysis, this note argues that the time seems ripe to reconsider the linkages between democracy and development. A review of key insights from both literature and practice is provided to facilitate such a re-assessment. The note then goes on to explore avenues that may help democracy to deliver better development outcomes.

Overcoming fragility in Africa - Forging a new European approach. European Report on Development.

A reassessment of the EU development policy towards the Sub-Saharan Africa fragile countries is in order. That is the aim of the [2009 European Report on Development](#). It analyses the costs and characteristics of fragility, the capacity of fragile countries to cope with negative shocks and the EU's current engagement with fragile countries as well as the potential for EU development policy to assist national stakeholders in enhancing resilience. ECDPM staff attended a number of ERD events and ECDPM inputted into the ERD process by the production of a background paper on *EU policies to address fragility in sub-Saharan Africa* by Fernanda Faria and Andrew Sherriff which was significantly utilised in chapter 8 of the ERD report. The ECDPM background paper will be officially published and available in full by the 6 November 2009.

First annual conference of the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) was launched at the Accra High Level Forum in September 2008 and aims to improve aid through greater transparency to accelerate the reduction of poverty. Click [here](#) for the agenda of the first annual meeting of the IATI held in The Hague on 20-21 October 2009. Click [here](#) for an informal note from ECDPM on the conference.

Trade Negotiations Insights. ECDPM-ICTSD. October 2009.

Contents * The Lisbon Treaty - Implications for ACP-EU Relations * Editorial * News and publications * Services and EPA: a difficult but vital relationship * Bananas, Economic Partnership Agreements, and the WTO * Some Lessons of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA * Specialty Food Products from Southern Africa: Aid that views Africa as a Commercial Partner * WTO Roundup * EPA Update * Events * Resources. Click [here](#) to read TNI.

European Union to reinforce transport cooperation with Africa.

The European Commission will be setting up an action plan with its African partners to discuss ways to improve and strengthen transport links between the two continents on an ongoing basis. The Action Plan is directly linked to the EC communication on working towards strengthening transport cooperation. Further cooperation is expected to lead to increased trade, improved safety and security as well as a transport system that is better equipped to deal with the challenges of climate change. Click [here](#) to read the 22 October EC press release.

Beyond Planning: Markets and Networks for Better Aid. Center for Global Development. October 2009.

According to this [document](#), the political economy of aid agencies is driven by incomplete information and multiple competing objectives and confounded by principal-agent and collective-action

clean water can often be a daily challenge. Europe is also affected by poverty and social exclusion. It may not be as severe, but is nonetheless unacceptable. Click [here](#) for more.

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problems. Policies to improve aid rely too much on a planning paradigm that tries to ignore, rather than change, the political economy of aid. A considered combination of market mechanisms, networked collaboration, and collective regulation would be more likely to lead to significant improvements. The priority should be on reforms that put pressure on the aid system to evolve in the right direction rather than on grand designs.

Theory, General Equilibrium, Political Economy and Empirics in Development Economics. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. October 2009.

Daron Acemoglu argues in [this paper](#) that economic theory plays (should play) a central role in formulating models, estimates of which can be used for counterfactual and policy analysis. He emphasises why relying solely on instruments for this type of analysis may be insufficient, and discusses why, in certain instances, counterfactual analysis based on microdata that ignores general equilibrium and political economy issues may lead to misleading conclusions.

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