

Weekly Compass

NEW AT ECDPM | POLICY NEWS | OFF THE TRACK | SERVICES | ABOUT

Editor's Pick

What next for the Joint Africa-EU Strategy? Perspectives on revitalising an innovative framework

The Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) was conceived as an innovative and far-reaching new partnership, in Lisbon in December 2007, with the aim of transforming the relationship between the two continents. After 2 ½ years of existence, the JAES is currently being subjected to an in-depth reflection amongst the official stakeholders about its architecture and the contents of the next Action Plan. This review process could result in proposals for "significant changes" to be discussed at the next Africa-EU Ministerial Troika on the 27th of April 2010, which will come to some decisions to present to the Third EU-Africa Heads of State Summit scheduled for November 2010. ECDPM, as an independent non-partisan foundation that has followed the JAES since its inception, has sought to contribute to this process in the form of [a paper scoping on what could be next for the Strategy](#). The paper seeks to refresh readers on the original commitments made in the JAES and to provide analysis on underlying successes and challenges, including upstream (political) bottlenecks. It also presents 3 possible reform scenarios for the future of the JAES as well as perspectives on how they might be achieved.

Visit also our Programme home pages

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

Policy News

Triangular Co-operation in the context of aid effectiveness

Triangular cooperation – collaboration between traditional donors and emerging economies in support of developing countries – is a growing trend that is expected to gain even more traction in the run up to the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Seoul in 2011. EU donors exchanged experiences and emerging modalities on this issue at a [workshop](#) organised by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) on 8 March. Related efforts by the Spanish EU Presidency include mapping of EU donors and the formulation of criteria and principles for triangular cooperation in the context of aid effectiveness to be adopted by the EU Council.

Joining up Africa conference

This [high-level meeting](#) took place in London on 4 March, organised by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in collaboration with several African partners and international development agencies. The meeting explored ways to accelerate the successful implementation of regional transport,

No. 32, 12 March 2010

Dear,

The European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs informed Members of the European Parliament on the status of establishing the EU's External Action Service. She is due to put forward the services' draft organigramme on 17 March. A compromise proposal to give the EEAS the lead in formulating strategy and assigning levels of development aid to a given country, while the European Commission would lead the work on specific country programmes, seems to be gaining acceptance. The EC put forward proposals for an Interinstitutional Agreement on cooperation in budgetary matters together with proposals for the multiannual financial framework for the years 2007-2013 and EU Budget Financial Regulation to align their provisions with the requirements of the Lisbon Treaty. The EC also put forward its proposal to reinvigorate global action on climate change. The European Parliament adopted resolutions on the Generalised Tariff Preferences Scheme and taxation of financial transactions. For more information and the latest news and upcoming meetings see the [Weekly Compass-Extended Version](#).

All the best,

Melissa

Melissa Julian
mj@ecdpm.org

Extended version in PDF

Find the extended version of this newsletter online

Off the track

Afghan Provincial Councilors Adapt to Growing Role in Governance

Provincial councilors in Afghanistan have seen their roles change and expand since their offices were created four years ago. Many of them had little political experience, so they've had to learn on the job.

trade and energy and other infrastructure programmes and improve the effectiveness of support for regional integration, including from the private sector. Good practices, such as the Tripartite EAC-COMESA-SADC Initiative were presented. At the end of the meeting, the main partners - World Bank, UN Economic Commission for Africa, World Trade Organisation, African Union Commission, the European Commission and DFID - signed an Outcome Statement, reaffirming their engagements in helping to accelerate the regional integration process, as an essential element for growth and development in Africa.

International community gearing up for the Millennium Development Goals Review Summit in September

UK DFID hosted a [conference on the MDGs](#) on 11 March attended by one hundred development experts and practitioners, including high-ranking government officials and staff of international development agencies. The conference particularly focused on the specific actions needed to meet the MDGs related to hunger, education and health, and the underlying enabling conditions for achieving these. The meeting's recommendations - including the adoption of a Global Development Action Plan - will inform the negotiations of the MDG Review Summit Outcome Document, that are scheduled to begin mid-April. See the event's website for the Chair's summary of the conference, as well as the background documents.

New joint EU-Caribbean strategy being drafted

Caribbean and European Union diplomats, government officials and representatives from regional organisations, the private sector and non-governmental organisations [met](#) to discuss the parameters for an enhanced Caribbean-EU partnership at a seminar in Barbados on 4-5 March. Participants worked on determining priorities and areas of strategic importance for both the Caribbean and the EU, looking at the principles for a joint Caribbean-EU strategy and the deepening of dialogue to ensure inclusiveness of consultation in developing the joint strategy. It is anticipated that an outline of the strategy will be presented at the upcoming European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean Summit in Madrid on 17 May.

The future of 'Duty Drawback' in the rules of origin of EU Free Trade Agreements

'Duty Drawback' (DD) is the refunding, remission or non-payment of customs duties or equivalent charges on foreign inputs (raw, semi-manufactured materials or components) that are used in the production of a final product which is exported to a third country. [The European Commission advises](#) that allowing DD is problematic in the context of a free trade area, as it introduces the possibility of competitive distortions between the participating countries, whereas goods and services should be traded on their respective markets on the basis of comparative advantages. However, since the prohibition of DD may also create problems in its application for partner countries, some limited concessions to this general policy line may be considered in exchange for adequate concessions from the other party, and on the condition that 'rules of origin' would fulfill the needs of EU industry.

Guide for low-income countries to evaluate donor performance

This [guide](#), from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Capacity Building Programme, provides a comprehensive overview of the major aid donors' key institutions, assistance, policies, procedures and implementation patterns and participation in coordination and alignment initiatives. It aims to assist low-income countries in designing sustainable external financing strategies and to support donors in aligning behind partner countries' development financing needs. The profiles will regularly updated.

so they've had to learn on the job. [Click here](#) for more on this learning process from the National Democratic Institute (US).

Services

Subscription options

Manage your subscriptions (subscribe, unsubscribe or get text / mobile version)

Manage e-newsletter

The information in this e-newsletter is also available: through RSS topic feeds



RSS subscriptions



follow us on Twitter

To prevent this e-newsletter from getting blocked by email filters please add our address (mj@ecdpm.org) to your email address book

Event calendar

Follow the major ECDPM and ACP-EU events on our calendar



ECDPM websites

Discover our thematic websites:
[acp-eu-trade.org](#)
[europafrica.net](#)
[capacity.org](#)

Sharing information with stakeholders



Visit the InfoCentre

Report on development, security and transitions in fragile states

This [report](#) outlines the key messages and recommendations that emerged from a meeting series organised by the Overseas Development Institute in partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. State fragility, conflict, violence and political instability are among the key challenges facing the international community. The report states that there is growing consensus that traditional interventions and 'business as usual' are no longer viable in fragile states. Innovative approaches to promoting development and humanitarian action are needed, integrating wider security, governance and legitimacy concerns, at the heart of which lie questions of power and politics.

ECDPM posts the latest news on international relations, development, economic, trade and governance policies daily on its website. [Click here](#) to access the full list of all the news we've collected this week. A convenient "Topics" feature also allows you to quickly scan your specific areas of interest.

Dialogue with us on our [Talking Points](#) blog.

Publisher: The Weekly Compass is produced by ECDPM (www.ecdpm.org) with financial resources provided by our core funder, the government of the Netherlands, and other financial partners - Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Luxemburg, Portugal, Switzerland and the UK.

If you received this e-newsletter from a colleague and would like to subscribe, you can do it on the [ECDPM website](#). If you no longer wish to receive Weekly Compass, click on the following link: [unsubscribe e-mail](#). We encourage our readers to circulate this newsletter to interested colleagues.

Editor: Melissa Julian, e-mail: mj@ecdpm.org Call or SMS on mobile +32 (0)47 328 11 65 - Fax +32 (0)2 380 31 55 Visit [Melissa's Profile](#)

Disclaimer: This newsletter has been created with great care though it may contain links to websites which are created and maintained by other organisations and which have information that is not complete or accurate. The contents of this message may express personal views which are not the views of ECDPM unless specifically stated. Reproduction is authorised provided that the source is acknowledged. However, we are not liable for the subsequent use of the information.

The information contained in this e-mail is intended for the person to whom it is addressed and may include confidential and/or privileged information. If you have received this e-mail in error please contact the sender immediately via info@ecdpm.org.

For more information about ECDPM: <http://www.ecdpm.org/about>