

# Weekly Compass

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## New at ECDPM

### Development Policy and International Relations

#### **A European Report on Development (ERD) meeting of senior level experts from EU Member States and academia was held in Florence on 22 June 2009.**

The focus of this first ERD is on the complex issue of state fragility and its impact on development prospects, primarily in Africa. It is due to be launched at the European Development Days being held in Stockholm, Sweden from 22-24 October 2009). ECDPM's Andrew Sherriff's participation at the meeting built on ECDPM's past work with the Instituto de Estudos Estratégicos e Internacionais (IEEI) in Portugal undertaken during the Portuguese EU Presidency in 2007. In the lead up to the launch in October of the ERD 2009, the focus will most likely be on the political economy dimension of fragility and ensuring that the ERD has focused and insightful policy implications. During this period, ECDPM will draw on its work in the area of fragility, governance and conflict to provide input on how the policy implications of the report can be sharpened to ensure relevance and impact. A core concern for ECDPM in the ERD process is to ensure ACP stakeholders are adequately consulted and involved and that processes have policy relevance. [Click here](#) to read the ECDPM note prepared by Andrew Sherriff outlining the status and challenges in the ERD process. [Click here](#) to visit the ERD website.

### Economic and Trade Cooperation

#### **Contentious issues in the Interim Economic Partnership Agreements: Potential flexibility? 11.11.11. Workshop. 23 June 2009. Brussels.**

A meeting of European civil society organisations on EPAs hosted by the Belgian NGO 11.11.11 in Brussels on 23 June 2009 received a presentation on the potential flexibility for the ACP and the EU that exists in dealing with the contentious issues in the Interim EPAs. From ECDPM Programme Officer Dan Lui. Dan reported there has been demand recently at both the technical and political level in the ACP and EU for practical comparative analysis drawing on recent negotiation processes and the way forward. A recent ECDPM discussion paper on this topic concludes that while there are contentious issues in many of the negotiations, both sides have committed themselves to addressing them using a flexible approach, and that these could be compensated in part through consensus on some of the accompanying measures (including the willingness of the EU to deliver meaningful Aid for Trade) and the effective pursuit of necessary institutional, structural and economic domestic reforms. [Click here](#) for Dan's PowerPoint presentation to the meeting. [Click here](#) for the full ECDPM paper

No. 1, 26 June 2009

Dear ,

I am pleased to send you the very first edition of the ECDPM Weekly Compass, which replaces the ECDPM ACP-EU News Weekly E-alert that you have been receiving until now.

The name "Weekly Compass" underlines our goal of helping readers to navigate the world of economic and trade cooperation, governance, development policy and international relations. ACP-EU E-alert readers will recognise the depth of coverage and rare 'behind-the-scenes' analysis, while enjoying the many new features. These include a convenient "Topics" section, weekly policy highlights, links to relevant ECDPM programmes, and RSS functionality. You will also be able to choose between a short, highlights version, and the full extended edition. Weekly Compass subscribers will be able to choose between this short version, highlighting key issues, and the full extended edition that you can download through the link below.

Please inform us about any technical glitches encountered, and how we can improve our services to better meet your needs. We encourage our readers to circulate this newsletter to interested colleagues.

All the best,

Melissa  
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#### **Extended version in PDF**

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## Off the track

**How cell phones, Twitter, Facebook can make history (video). Video on TED.com. 17 June 2009.**

[Click here](#) for the full ECDPM paper.

## ACP - EU Economic Partnership Agreements: Zambia workshop on opportunities and challenges for the private sector. 16-17 June. Lusaka.

This two-day ProInvest TRINNEX workshop in Lusaka brought together representatives of the main Zambia intermediary Organizations (IOs) with other key IOs from the region to discuss trade related issues in order to favour the development and implementation of joint projects in trade and investment. The workshop aimed to raise awareness on the impact of trade and investment issues on the private sector in COMESA countries and in particular on the Agriculture and Tourism sectors in Zambia. Representatives of the private sector, the national authorities and regional organisations exchanged best practices and discussed how to coordinate their actions, and possibly define activities or measures to be implemented in order to allow the private sector to benefit as much as possible from the EPAs and regional integration processes within the framework of COMESA. Beyond capacity building in EPAs and A4T, and in the future, monitoring EPAs, technical expertise is necessary. The needs of the intermediary organisations present were wide, ranging from value chain analysis to policy advocacy training and building capacity for product promotion. TRINNEX is ready to finance the needs of Intermediary Organisations and will examine proposals put forward at the workshop. ECDPM's Aurelie Walker made a well received presentation on "Key Issues in the ESA EPA: Lessons from other Regions with a focus on Agriculture and Tourism." [Click here](#) for Aurelie's presentation to the meeting. [Click here](#) for the ProInvest website.

## Governance

### Un regard ouest-africain sur l'appui à la redevabilité politique: l'expérience du Laboratoire Citoyennetés ("A West African approach to promoting domestic accountability. The experience of Laboratoire Citoyennetés") (text available in French only) Laboratoire Citoyennetés with contributions from ECDPM's Alisa Herrero Cangas. June 2009.

This short article describes the Burkina Faso-based Laboratoire Citoyennetés' approach to promoting domestic accountability at the local level, through action-oriented research. The article seeks to share the key findings from both research and dialogue processes, with national and international actors. It points to several operational and strategic challenges linked to supporting domestic accountability. [Click here](#) to read the paper.

#### Visit also our Programme home pages

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

## Policy News

### Development Policy and International Relations

#### After 2015: promoting pro-poor policy after the MDGs. High level policy forum hosted by UK DFID, ActionAid, DSA, EADI and IDS. 23 June 2009.

The MDGs have played a major role in focusing development policy since their original incarnation in the 1990s but what happens when we no longer have the MDGs? How will we promote pro-poor policy after 2015? This high level policy forum debated these issues and sought to address three questions: What has been the impact on poverty reduction of the MDG paradigm?; What are the

Clay Shirky explains how new social media tools and subsequent social capital has empowered the South to communicate and facilitated the diffusion and targeting of messages. All this has changed the way society works. Shirky focuses on the rising usefulness of decentralised technologies such as peer-to-peer, wireless networks, social software and open-source development. New technologies are enabling new kinds of cooperative structures to flourish as a way of getting things done in business, science, the arts and elsewhere, as an alternative to centralised and institutional structures. [Click here](#) to see the presentation.

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Sharing information with stakeholders



major global processes shaping development up to 2015 and beyond; How can we promote pro-poor policy after the MDGs and amid global changes. [Read more](#).

## Economic and Trade Cooperation

### **Reinforcing cooperation in transport between Africa and Europe. EC Communication. 24 June 2009.**

EC Vice-President and Senegal President launched the EC Communication on "Reinforcing cooperation in transport between Africa and Europe" on 24 June in Brussels. Strengthening cooperation between Europe and Africa in the transport sector is at the core of the communication. It aims to connect the Trans-European and African networks, in particular through developing a common map of transport infrastructures. The Commission will make available the experience it gained from European transport policy to its African partners. This seeks to contribute to the implementation of a more efficient transport system, assisting in the development of the African continent in order to face the challenges of poverty, environmental degradation and migratory imbalances. [Click here](#) to read the Communication. See also: [EC press release](#).

### **Regional integration essential for sustained development in Africa. Economic Development in Africa Report 2009. UNCTAD. 25 June 2009.**

The Economic Development in Africa Report 2009 argues that regional integration is essential for sustained development on the continent, especially within the context of crisis. As part of a broader, well-designed development strategy, regional integration could enhance productive capacity, intensify diversification and improve competitiveness. Pooled resources and economies of scale would allow African countries to participate more effectively in the global economy. The Report analyses trends in the trade of goods and services, migration and investment, assessing the potential for increasing them in ways that support economic development. [Click here](#) to read the report.

### **ACP calls for urgent solutions to financial crisis. ACP Group of States. 19 June 2009.**

The ACP Group said that the poor countries are more than ever in need of funds to compensate for the decline in national revenues, and to drive investments in view of maintaining and boosting growth. Any effort to increase the volume of aid to low-income countries would also be most welcomed under the current circumstances and the ACP urge the developed countries to intensify their efforts to honour their official development (ODA) commitments. An in-depth reflection on the legitimacy and effectiveness of the international financial institutions should be a priority. Reforms should aim to give low income countries increased representation and responsibility in the international fora and make the international system more transparent and effective, better able to anticipate the risks of a crisis, and with the essential objective of development for all countries, they said. [Click here](#) to read the ACP statement.

## Governance

### **Global & Domestic Governance. Wilton Park Conference. 22-25 June 2009.**

Promoting political freedom and deepening democracy in developing and transition countries  
How far should strict adherence to democratic principles be tempered by 'practicalities'? Is 'good enough governance' acceptable? Exactly which relationships should or can there be



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between the efforts of those who promote democracy, development, and security? How should the international community react to the challenge of countries that adopt democratic forms but that do not allow democratic substance to emerge in any serious way? [Read more](#).

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