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EU-Africa e-alert -- No. 6 / March 2007

This e-alert aims to provide quick and regular information and analysis on the EU-African relations, especially the decisions and processes that impact on the implementation of the new EU Strategy for Africa. This newsletter has started as part of a project funded by the European Commission and implemented by ECORYS and is now funded by ECDPM.

The EU-Africa e-alert is expected to be a living document and is meant to offer African and European stakeholders the opportunity to share information and exchange points of view and is done in partnership with the African Union Commission. Please do not hesitate to send interesting links and articles which can contribute to enriching this e-alert, in particular by African partners. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed so far.

Contact: europafrica.e-alert@ecdpm.org. Please also send an e-mail to this address if you want to unsubscribe from this e-alert.

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I – Focus: Towards the Lisbon summit: the public consultation on an EU-Africa joint strategy

For the first time, the European Union and the African Union have decided to develop a joint strategy in order to develop a common political vision for the future partnership between the EU and Africa. The joint Strategy is to be adopted at the planned EU-Africa Summit in late 2007. A public consultation has been jointly launched by the AU and the EU to seek the views of Non State Actors on the future EU-Africa joint Strategy. The Internet consultation is moderated by ECDPM. See www.europafrika.org to participate in the consultation.

The public consultation

ECDPM Editorial

The aim of this editorial is to provide a snapshot of the on-going negotiation process of the future joint EU-Africa Strategy to be adopted at the foreseen Lisbon Summit in November 2007. It particularly focuses on the issue of the shared vision that should lay the ground for the future Strategy and the main questions that should be raised for the joint EU-Africa Strategy to be the start of a new era in EU-Africa relations. To read more, please [click here](#) .

Europafrica bulletin

The Europafrica bulletin is issued electronically every two weeks and gives you an up-date on the public consultation for a joint EU-Africa Strategy. It includes news that has been posted on the website, as well as a summary and quotes from your comments and contributions.

For the latest version, see:

<http://europafrika.org/2007/02/01/europafrika-bulletin2/>

To subscribe, send an e-mail to: europafrika@ecdpm.org

"A 3 months process is not meaningful to ensure real ownership"

Contribution to the public consultation by CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development. The focus lies on the process of the consultation and specifically how African civil society can be involved under such limited time. Read [more](#)

"Contribution au débat sur le renouveau du dialogue Europe /Afrique"

Contribution by Ousmane Sy, Bamako, Coordinator of 'l'Alliance pour Refonder la Gouvernance en Afrique'. In French. Read [more](#)

Conference: "Prospects for Africa – Europe's Policies"

At the conference "Prospects for Africa – Europe's Policies", held in Bonn on the 12 of March, African and European non-governmental organisations (NGOs) formulated demands on the informal meeting of EU Development Ministers on the 13/3.

[Read the manifesto](#)

The institutional negotiations

First joint expert meeting on the Joint EU-Africa Strategy

The first meeting between the officials negotiating took place in Brussels on the 19-23 of February. Both sides reiterated their will to develop a new Strategic Partnership between both continents in the framework of the positive development on the African

continent since the first EU-Africa summit was held in Cairo in 2000 and in particular following the establishment of the African Union in 2002.

To read the joint press release, click [here](#).
[Summary report](#) by ECDPM on the meeting

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II - EU-AU Relations

The African Union and the European Union have initiated the official dialogue on the drafting of the new joint EU-Africa Strategy. The process will go on until the foreseen Lisbon Summit at the end of 2007.

1. Towards an EU-Africa joint Strategy

See the focus section

2. EC-AUC institutional dialogue

AUC and EC joint task force meeting

The Joint Task Force (JTF) between the African Union Commission and the European Commission met from 8-9 March 2007 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. Among the topics on the agenda was the development of the joint EU-Africa Strategy. Read [more](#)

3. EU-AU relations in a broader context

Challenges and responsibilities for the EU and China in Africa

Article by EU High Representative Javier Solana in China Daily. 7 February 2007. Solana encourages greater cooperation between the European Union and China in Africa in 2007 and welcome the agreement at the most recent EU-China Summit in Finland in September last year to establish a regular senior official-level dialog on Africa. Read [more](#).

4. Upcoming events

Calendar of the negotiations for a joint EU-Africa Strategy as well as the public consultation

<http://europafrica.org/2007/01/01/eu-africa-strategy-calendar/>

Meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Bureau
20-21 March, Brussels.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/56_01/pdf/oj_march07_fr.pdf

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III- The African Union: Africa in a Broader Context and the RECs

1. African Union

Elections of the Members of the Commission

Elections of the Members of the Commission are scheduled for July 2007. The new AU Commission will take over mid-September.

<http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/index/index.htm>

Great expectations: AU remains hopeful and hesitant

The author analyses with some distance the outcome of the previous summit and the challenges that will face the second Commission of the African Union to be elected at the next Summit.

<http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/aumonitor/39752>

Election of the members of the African Union ECOSOCC

The Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union invites all African civil society organizations to participate into the election of its representatives to the ECOSOCC General Assembly to be held between June and December 2007.

ECOSOCC was launched in March 2005, where an Interim General Assembly was elected for a two-year term, to organize democratic elections of representatives of social and professional groups into the substantive ECOSOCC Assembly in 2007.

<http://www.africa-union.org/ECOSOCC/CIDO-en.htm>

For further information see the African Unions website:

<http://www.africa-union.org/>

2. African Regional Economic Communities

Workshop on Regional Economic Communities organized by the Pan African Parliament

The Pan African Parliament (PAP) organized a workshop on African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Botswana during the period 12 – 13 March 2007. The workshop was expected to focus on three issues, namely the role of PAP and regional parliamentary bodies in the realisation of an African Union government, the facilitation of the effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the African Union, and the promotion of human rights and democracy in Africa

<http://www.pan-african-parliament.org/papnews.htm#REPORT11Mar2007>

World Bank workshop on regional integration

The World Bank organised a high-level policy workshop on an African strategy for regional integration, which took place in Nairobi (Kenya) on 31 January and 1 February 2007.

(In French)

http://www.africatime.com/afrique/nouv_pana.asp?no_nouvelle=309293&no_categorie=3

Common market for Eastern and Southern Africa - COMESA

Minister Bamakrama Urges DRC and Eritrea to Join COMESA free trade area

COMESA Council of Ministers Chairman Rifki Abdoukader Bamakrama recently held fruitful discussions with President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo and President Isaias Afwerki of the State of Eritrea regarding the two countries joining the COMESA Free Trade Area. The discussions were part of the programme on the expansion and consolidation of Africa's first Free Trade Area launched by COMESA. Both DRC and Eritrea have expressed commitment to join the Free Trade Area before the launch of the Customs Union in December 2008.

<http://www.ariceaonline.org/ecomesa/drc.html>

Economic Community of Central African States – ECCAS

Way ahead for EU-CEEAC relations

Mr Antoine Louis Zimni, deputy Secretary General of CEEAC, gave a press conference about the EPA negotiations. He discussed the way ahead for EU-CEEAC relations, and warned that the lack of an agreement by the end of 2007 would create a legal gap endangering the evolution of the partnership. (In French) <http://www.ceeac-eccas.org/index.php?lang=fr&brefId=75>

Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa – EMCCA

On-going governance reforms in CEMAC/EMCCA

The "Steering Committee established in March 2006 after the Heads of States decided to move forward on the basis of the conclusions of an institutional and organisational audit of the Region, met for the fifth in Bata (Equatorial Guinea) from 20 to 22 February 2007. It issued a report presenting 19 propositions around 5 axes, the first one being the improvement of co-management and of the governance of the CEMAC/EMCCA institutions. The report will very soon be presented to the Heads of States.

Institutional and organisational audit of the CEMAC/EMCCA (In French)

Read [more](#)

Rapport du Comité de pilotage au Président Dedie, Bata, 22 Février 2007 (In French)

Southern African Development Community – SADC

"EU-SADC post-2007 trade: The final wake up call for Namibia and the rest of the SADC region"

This article describes the current developments of SADCs EPA negotiations with the EU. It also gives the historic background of the regional configuration as well as describes the difficulties of overlapping memberships.

http://www.republikein.com.na/content/nuus/2007/Mrt/06_eu.phphttp://www.republikein.com.na/content/nuus/2007/Mrt/06_eu.php

SADC leaders losing patience with Robert Mugabe

Johannesburg - African leaders, for so long reluctant to speak out about the crisis in Zimbabwe, are finally running out of patience with President Robert Mugabe over fears of being tainted by the fallout.

http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/Zimbabwe/0,,2-11-1662_2083456,00.html

See also under governance

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IV - EU External Aid: EDF 10, Development Cooperation Instrument and EU Development Policy

1. EU Development cooperation policy and instruments

EC proposes a Code of Conduct for an improved division of labour between EU Donors

Cutting red tape, putting the money where it is needed most, pooling aid, dividing the job in order to deliver more aid, better and faster. These are the objectives of a

new and voluntary Code of Conduct for the division of labour in EU Development Policy proposed by the Commission today. The Code of Conduct will contain ten principles for a better division of labour among EU donors in developing countries. Read [more](#) [Financial Times](#) article

50 years of EU development co-operation

2007 marks the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome which first established the European Community. BOND presents a collection of thoughts on European successes and challenges ahead. Click [here](#) to read more

European Commission proposes a European strategy to promote gender equality in development cooperation

With the European Strategy to promote gender equality in development cooperation the EC suggests concrete actions in five key areas for the promotion of gender equality: governance, employment, education, health and domestic violence. It provides guidelines on how to improve gender mainstreaming in development policy and shows the potential of budget support for the promotion of gender equality. Read [more](#)

2. Programming and implementation of EC aid

EC aid co-opted for war on terror

In this article Simon Stocker, Eurostep, investigates the new wave of Latin American and Asian country strategy papers drafted by the EC. Is the 9 billion euro earmarked to fund these new strategies going to be money well spent? "There are signs that the Commission is examining the language used in the strategy papers to see if it can be altered to allow the funding of anti-terrorism or the 'prevention of terrorism' activities." Read [more](#)

Expert meeting on contribution of general budget support to social sectors.

On Wednesday 28 February, Alliance 2015 organised an expert meeting on the contribution of General Budget Support (GBS) to social sectors. The meeting examined both the role of GBS as an aid modality and the complexity of measuring its actual contribution to development goals. Despite the broad spectrum of views surrounding this subject, the meeting highlighted a widespread agreement that GBS is becoming an increasingly important means of delivering European development assistance and that it is, therefore, necessary to ensure that it fully contributes to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

[Background paper](#)

[Eurostep Report](#)

European non State actors complain about the EC pushing for governance rather than other important sectors in the 10th EDF programming exercise

The participants to a meeting that took place in Brussels on 27-28 February heard that initial findings indicate that 63 out of 77 ACP countries are not to receive funds for health and education as part of the aid package for African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries covering the period 2008 to 2012. Instead, the Commission is seeking to increase allocations to promoting trade and a notion of good governance which pays more attention to economic liberalisation than the eradication of poverty, according to participants. Read [more](#)

3. EU External Aid in Perspective: other relevant matters

"Africa Agenda for 2007"

Suggestions for the German G8 and EU Council Presidencies by the German Development Institute, DIE. Click [here](#) to read more

G8 must set timetable for double aid promise so that Africa can plan and invest

The G8 could foster enormous trust that its promises to Africa are real. The most important, by far, is the 2005 G8 promise to double aid to Africa from \$25bn in 2004 to at least \$50bn in 2010. Now the G8 needs to set out the timescale for increasing aid to each recipient country – conditional on reasonable governance – so that African countries can plan and undertake the multi-year investments that will make such a difference to their long-term development. Read [more](#)

Study on Common Foreign and Security Policy/ Development – use of CPA article 96

This study focuses on how coordination and coherence were handled in the preparation and conduct of a number of article 96 consultation processes. It specifically focuses on the junction between foreign policy and development policy in the context of article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement. This article provides the legal basis for the suspension of cooperation in cases where one of the parties feels the agreement's essential elements are not being respected. The study focuses on how coordination and coherence were handled in the preparation and conduct of a number of article 96 consultation processes. Read [more](#)

Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Aid Recipients 2001-2005

This publication provides comprehensive data on the volume, origin and types of aid and other resource flows to around 150 developing countries for the period 2001-2005. Key development indicators are given for reference. Read [more](#)

SARPN have put together a 'donor matrix' of commitments.

The idea is to help us track donor commitments and promises made at various fora and at different times. The matrix, although not very comprehensive and conclusive in terms of coverage, is however, a useful benchmark tool that we can use to hold some of the donors accountable for their words and actions in the global development agenda. Click [here](#) to read more

"French foreign policy in Africa: Between Pre Carre and multilateralism"

In the post-Cold War era, 'multilateralism' has become the latest political buzzword, and in its wake a notable shift in French policy in Africa has emerged. This shift, combined with a new generation of French politicians claiming to herald a fresh approach, might suggest that changes are on the way. Read [more](#)

Labelling countries as poor performers can be damaging

Research from the Overseas Development Institute and the University of Nottingham (UK) uses statistical analysis to examine whether there is a set of countries that can be classified as poor performers. The research shows that very few countries can be labelled as consistent poor performers on the basis of statistical evidence. So the labelling of certain countries as poor performers has been based on subjective or unclear criteria. This could be having serious consequences for their populations, as donors are concerned about whether attempts to assist poor people in these countries are undermined by their governments.

Click [here](#) to read more

For more news on EU-ACP relations, please see Melissa Julian's weekly e-alert on www.ecdpm.org. To subscribe send an email to mj@ecdpm.org

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V - Peace and Security

Meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council, 13 March, 2007

The council focused specifically on the 'Pact on Peace, Security, and Development in the Great Lakes Region' that was adopted in December, 2006 and requested the Chairperson of the Commission to review, with the United Nations, the partnership that should be put in place by the two organisations to assist and support the Executive Secretariat to implement the Pact in compliance with the principle of ownership of the process by the region. Read [more](#)

EU Council conclusions on AMIS support from the EDF for the Sudan/Darfur conflict

The Council acknowledged the need to urgently address the funding needs of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) - for which the EU has already committed around EUR 400 million through Community and bilateral Member State contributions - and pledged continued funding for AMIS in the period leading up to the deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force. It expressed its readiness to replenish the African Peace Facility from resources of the 9th European Development Fund. A number of Member States announced additional voluntary contributions. Click [here](#) to read more

Dispute over how to fund peace-keeping in Darfur

The European Commission is at loggerheads with most EU governments about how peace-keeping in Darfur should be funded and questions whether it is correct to use development aid money for security purposes. Read [more](#)

"The International Security Engagement of the European Union – Courage and Capabilities for a 'More Active' EU"

To move from reactive to pro-active security policies remains a key challenge for the EU. But only by force-fully pursuing this strategic shift will Europe be able to focus on strengthen its international security engagement. In the following text, Sven Biscop, participant in the European Strategic Forum and Senior Re-search Fellow at the Royal Institute for International Relations in Brussels, explores ways and means of meeting the challenge of a 'more active' EU. Read [more](#)

"The politics of naming: genocide, civil war, insurgency"

Mahmood Mamdani of Pambazuka News looks critically at the Save Darfur campaign and asks why those calling for the end of US intervention in Iraq are calling for intervention in Darfur. Read [more](#)

"The International Criminal Court and Sudan - Opening a Pandora's Box"

This article from International Security Studies (ISS) discusses the situation in Sudan and the possibilities of international intervention. It argues that the case of Sudan's Western region demonstrates some of the key weaknesses of the international system: the challenges of deadline driven diplomacy and the blowback effect of the use of the 'war on terror' as a geopolitical lens through which to analyse conflicts in Africa. Click [here](#) to read more

Informal discussions by EU Defence Ministers

The situation in Sudan, military cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations as well as the development of military capabilities of the European Union were the topics discussed by the EU Defence Ministers on March 2nd, the second day of their informal meeting in Wiesbaden. Read [more](#)

Discussions on military capabilities focussed on the 'Headline Goal' process, the Rapid Response Capability and the Capability Development Plan. Read [more](#)

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VI - Governance

1. Governance in Africa

The AU supports Press freedom

A delegation of concerned press freedom fighters flew to the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to meet the continental body's Chairperson, Alpha Oumar Konaré. Mr Konaré assured the delegation of his office's support for press freedom in the continent. <http://www.afrol.com/articles/24526> (Pambazuka News)

Social Accountabilty Network Promotes Good Governance in Africa

Government and civil society leaders from across Africa met in December in Pretoria to launch the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA)-Africa, an innovative new mechanism to support social accountability initiatives on the African continent. The launch was hosted by South Africa's Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), which is partnering with the World Bank in sponsoring the initiative. Read [more](#)

Elections in Mauritania

After the first run of Mauritanian Presidential elections on March 11, two candidates are still eligible: Ahmed Ould Daddah and Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdellahi (suspected of being close to the military junta currently ruling the country). All candidates and the EU electoral observation mission recognised that elections were fair. It is the first time ever since the independence in 1960 that the country encounters a second run to Presidential elections, which will take place on the 25th of March.

http://www.jeuneafrique.com/jeune_afrique/article_depeche.asp?art_cle=XIN70027Iescaeyleit0 (French)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6435477.stm> (English)

Elections in Senegal

Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade has been elected for a second five-year term, according to the country's electoral commission. The first run of elections took place on February 25. Opposition candidates among the 14 who challenged Wade have complained of voting irregularities and said they will challenge the results in court.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200703020769.html> (English)

<http://www.lemonde.fr/web/article/0,1-0@2-3212,36-876612,0.html?xtor=RSS-3208> (French)

Civil unrests in Zimbabwe: President Mugabe increasingly under pressure

The leader of the opposition, Morgan Tsvangirai, has been beaten by the police after he was arrested along with other demonstrators. The peaceful gathering had been forbidden by the government, which undergoes increasing pressure from the international community, including from South Africa. Current chair of the African Union President Kufuor has openly condemned the Mugabe regime by saying: 'African leaders are embarrassed by the situation in Zimbabwe and perhaps could do more to help, but have met stiff resistance from Harare. As The African Union we will do all we can to restore the rule of Law in Zimbabwe'.

<http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/letters/40374>

http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/Zimbabwe/0,,2-11-1662_2083456,00.html

<http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/features/40373>http://www.jeuneafrique.com/jeune_afrique/article_depeche.asp?art_cle=AFP15147lechesyapud0 (French)

See SADC attitude in the AU and RECs section

Celebration of Ghana's independence

On March 6, 1957, Ghana became the first country in Africa south of the Sahara to gain independence from colonial rule. 2007, marks 50 years of independence, with celebrations in Ghana and around the world.

See the official website: <http://www.ghana50.gov.gh/ghana50/>

Pambazuka news have issued a series of articles at the occasion of this anniversary.

"Ghana upholds the spirit of pan-African citizenship"

"Ghana at 50: independence or the fog of dependency?"

"Nkrumah and the one-party state"

2. Governance in EU-Africa relations

EU member states discussing expanded sanctions on Zimbabwe

Heads of EU member state missions in the Zimbabwean capital Harare met on Tuesday (20 March) and agreed to back efforts by the Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete to restart dialogue between the country's political parties. EU diplomats are discussing plans to expand sanctions and tighten the rules on visa bans. A special meeting of Africa experts from member states' representations in Brussels is to take place in two weeks' time. "We are beginning to look at what instruments we have," said one diplomat. UK Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Wednesday (21 March) that he would look to the EU to extend the assets freeze and travel ban "as far as we can".

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/current/article.asp?id=27623>

Zimbabwe - Restrictive measures, 2784th Council Meeting of the Council, Competitiveness, Brussels, 19 February 2007

The Council adopted a common position renewing restrictive measures against Zimbabwe for a further year and updating the list of persons subject to these measures. The restrictive measures, first introduced in February 2002, consist of a ban on entry into the EU and a freeze on financial assets for individuals who engage in activities that seriously undermine democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law in Zimbabwe. An embargo on the supply of arms and equipment intended for military operations is also in force. Read [more](#)

International conference on "Improving Governance and Fighting Corruption", organised by the World Bank Institute, the OECD and Belgium's Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs – Brussels, 14-15 March 2007

The conclusions of the conference, which included a wide group of stakeholders, will help to pave the way for follow-up sessions at the Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund in April 2007, as well as the meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level scheduled for May 2007.

<http://www.improvinggovernance.be/>

3. Further reading

Creating civil society dialogue in Somalia

Saferworld has been funded by the European Community to coordinate a project in Somalia that seeks to create dialogue between non-state actors, the Somali authorities and the international community. This article provides a summary of the experiences and the challenges that confront the project and civil society in Somalia; summarises lessons learnt; and considers future steps for sustainable inclusion of civil society dialogue into development and peace processes. Read [more](#)

4. Upcoming events

African Civil Society Forum 2007 "Democratizing Governance at regional and global level to achieve the MDGs", 22-24 March 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

<http://www.ngocongo.org/index.php?what=doc&id=1016>

<http://www.femnet.or.ke/calendar.asp>

V Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity, South Africa, 2-5 April 2007

South Africa will host the Global Forum V on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity, to be held from 2-5 April 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme 'Fulfilling our commitments: effective action against corruption'.

<http://www.globalforum5.gov.za/>

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VII - EPA Negotiations

February saw the EPA negotiations intensify with a series of bilateral Ministerial meetings between the EU and the ACP regions, culminating with the meeting of the Joint ACP-EC Ministerial Trade Committee on 1 March. At this stage the Commission underlines that the deadline of 31 December for conclusion of negotiations cannot be extended. To this end the Commission wants to significantly progress the technical negotiations, particularly on market access, in all regions in the coming weeks. The ACP regions, however, have expressed that they are committed to concluding EPAs before the end of the year only on condition that their concerns regarding the level and accessibility of development financing to support their EPA commitments are met.

Meanwhile the formal Joint Reviews of the EPA negotiations have still to be agreed at the all-ACP level and for several ACP regions. ACP representatives note that the delay in agreeing these reviews is proving a further hindrance to the progress of the EPA negotiations.

EPA negotiations update

This is a longer version of the EPA negotiations update that appeared in Trade Negotiations Insights, January – February 2007, Vol. 6 No. 1

http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/newsletter/acp-eu-trade/TNI_0107_epa-update-long.php

ACP NGO letter to ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee

Call for an interim trade regime to allow more time for EPA negotiations, beyond 31 December 2007, to allow ACP regions to put in place the conditions which are necessary to effectively negotiate advantageous EPAs. Read [more](#)

Finding the landing ground in the ACP-EU EPA negotiations

This note from the European Research Office reviews the current EC approach to finding a 'landing zone' for the EPA negotiations, which are entering their final months. Read [more](#)

Agriculture and Development in the EPA negotiations

This study aims to offer a comprehensive overview of the actors' positions in the ongoing EPA negotiations on agriculture.

http://www.sjv.se/webdav/files/SJV/trycksaker/Pdf_rapporter/ra06_32E.pdf

Summary Report on the Consultative workshop on: A Monitoring Process for the implementation of EPAs

The purpose of this workshop, organized by ECDPM-DIE was to discuss objectives, key features, methodological and institutional options of an EPA monitoring mechanism.

<http://www.ecdpm.org/trade/epamonitoring>

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VIII - Migration and development

High-level meeting between the EU, Mali and ECOWAS in Bamako on 8 February 2007

Drawing on the Declaration of the Rabat conference and its action plan, the conclusions of the first session of the EU-Mali consultation on migration on 26 September 2006 and the results of the EU-Africa ministerial conference on migration and development held in Tripoli in November 2006, the parties discussed bilateral and Community cooperation on migration. Click [here](#) to read more

2781st Council meeting, Justice and Home Affairs, Brussels, 15 February 2007

The Council had an exchange of views on the implementation of the European Council conclusions of 14 and 15 December 2006 relating to a Comprehensive European Migration Policy. In particular, the Council took forward the discussion on migration which was started at the informal Ministerial meeting in Dresden in January 2007: strengthening cooperation with third countries in the fight against illegal migration through the development of incentives to cooperate, partnership agreements on migration and development, promoting circular migration by allowing temporary stays for the purpose of work or further training and education. Read [more](#)

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection

This Regulation establishes common rules for the collection and compilation of Community statistics on immigration to and emigration from the Member State territories. Read [more](#)

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IX – An actor in EU-Africa relations:

AfriMAP, the Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project, is a civil society initiative that aims to assess and report on African governments' compliance with human rights, democracy and good governance commitments made under the African Union as well as regional and international treaties. The project provides support to civil society organisations across African countries to conduct systematic audits of government performance in three areas: the justice sector and the rule of law; political participation and democracy; and effective delivery of public services. AfriMAP was established in 2004 as a project of the Open Society Institute's network of African foundations, which is present in West Africa, Southern Africa and East Africa.

AfriMAP's role has been to develop an assessment methodology that draws primarily from African standards and normative values complemented by regional and international standards. The project provides training for researchers and civil society organizations to apply the methodology. Working through the foundations and partners in-country AfriMAP facilitates policy dialogue between state and non-state actors aimed at policy reform. AfriMAP is also actively promoting more effective civil society engagement with the AU and its processes. The organisation aims to complement the broad-based APRM (African Peer Review Mechanism) reporting process – a mechanism that the EU wants to support strongly (see EC COM(2006)421 final). Information generated through AfriMAP reports will be useful to the APRM process as additional civil society input as well as providing more in-depth analysis of the three sectors. Because of its continental focus AfriMAP has the potential to provide comparative analysis across countries on some of the emerging trends. AfriMAP reports have a section on donor policies and practices in the respective survey countries that will provide useful information to recipient countries and development partners. In the cases of Malawi and Mozambique, EU officials were also part to the process, which tends to be as constructive as possible in suggesting means to improve governance.

As Director Ozias Tungwarara rightly points out, "in a broader perspective, AfriMAP supports and promotes the active engagement of civil society organisations with national governments, the African Union and donors, contributing to the building of their capacities"; a very challenging battlefield on which the EU is also very engaged. Mr Tungwarara also mentions that "part of the AfriMAP monitoring methodology critically examines the extent to which donor policies aid or undermine African governments human rights, democracy and governance commitments", what is certainly interesting – among others regarding the "governance of the aid" debate. AfriMAP also intends to draw on its research to work with African and international institutions and development partners to strengthen their own monitoring and capacity-building initiatives.

Contact details: <http://www.afriMAP.org/index.php>

Email: info@afriMAP.org

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- to enhance the capacity of stakeholders in the public and private sectors in the ACP and other low-income countries.
- to improve cooperation between development partners in Europe and in ACP.

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