



EU-Africa e-alert -- No. 3 / November 2006

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 is part of a project funded by the European Commission and implemented by ECORYS, aiming at reinforcing the coordination, complementarity and coherence (the “three Cs”) of EU action towards Africa.

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.

A French version of the e-alert will be sent within the next couple of days. You will also be able to find both versions on the web:
<http://europafrique.civiblog.org/blog>

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

.....

Contents

- I – Focus: The institutional future of the African Union**
- II – The African Union: Africa in a broader context and the RECs**
- III – EU external aid: EDF 10, new instruments of EC external aid and EU development cooperation policy**
- IV – Peace and Security**
- V – Governance**
- VI – EPA negotiations**
- VII – Migration and development**
- VIII – EU-AU relations and follow up of the EU Strategy for Africa**
- IX – An actor in EU-AU relations: Avenir NEPAD**

.....

I – Focus on the institutional future of the African Union

An extraordinary Council of Ministers will take place on 17-18 November in order to discuss the institutional future of the African Union, which will also be one of the key topics of the next AU Summit in January 2007. Some of the main issues are the role of the AU Commission and the delegation of powers it will be granted by AU Member States. The editorial and comments below are contributions to this debate.

ECDPM Editorial

What future for the African Union?

After four years of existence and as the first mandate of the Commission is ending, African Union (AU) authorities want to seize the opportunity to discuss the future of the Union. Composed of African Heads of States and of Governments, the "Committee of the 7" was in charge of working on the future of the AU institutions. Its conclusions should feed in the debate on the occasion of the 17-18 November 2006 Extraordinary meeting of the Executive Council and, later, at the AU Summit of January 2007. This editorial aims to briefly recall what is at stake. To read more, please click [here](#).

"Local communities and local authorities are the major actors in the much expected change for Africa",

Contribution of Ousmane SY, Coordinator of the Alliance to lay new foundations for governance in Africa, former Minister for Territorial Administration and Local Government in Mali and Winner of the 2004-2005 King Baudouin International Development Prize. To read more, please click [here](#)

"For a rapid operational start of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights"

Contribution of Stéphanie DUJARDIN, Secretary General of the International Initiative for the African Union (IUA), Legal expert on the African Union. To read more, please click [here](#)

"UA – Réunion de la dernière chance", in Jeune Afrique, 15-21 October 2006, N. 2388, p. 11.

This article announces that the African Union Committee of 7 in charge of making proposals on the institutional reform of the African Union will present its conclusions at the Extra-ordinary Council of Ministers organized in Addis Ababa on 17-18 November in view of the AU Summit that will take place in January 2007.

<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/>

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

1. Africa in a Broader Context

The last AU-China Summit and more generally the strengthening of the relations between Africa and other countries of the developing world embody the increasing attention directed by other Southern partners towards Africa and the growing credibility of the AU on the international stage. This could allow Africa to have increased political room for manoeuvre and to become more integrated into the global economy. Looking at the EU-Africa privileged relationship, the increased interest of Southern partners towards Africa could seriously threaten the EU's

position as Africa 's primary partner and the EU could become one of Africa 's main development and trade partners only.

Rising AU-China Relations

China to double aid to Africa

A summit was held in Beijing on China-Africa cooperation on the 4-5 of November, attended by 48 African leaders. The summit concluded by adopting a new strategic partnership between the two regions, and of China promising to double its aid as well as trade with African countries. China also proposed a raft of new loans, development projects in health and agriculture, and debt cancellations. China caused international reactions by welcoming both Zimbabwe's and Sudan's presidents among the 48 African leaders. Trade deals for an amount of \$2bn were signed during the summit. Click [here](#) to read more.

"Problems of Africa-China Co-Operation"

This article gives background information on China-Africa relations. It describes how mutual understanding has developed, but warns against the risks of it developing to an unequal relationship where China will reap the benefits.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200611080439.html>

Korea-Africa relations

South Korea promised to triple its aid to Africa at Korea-Africa Forum

South Korea promised to triple its aid to Africa before 2008, which would amount to about 100 millions of dollars. This decision was taken at the occasion of the first Korea-African Summit that brought together 25 representatives of African States. It follows the historical summit that took place in China from the third to the fifth of November 2006. To read more, please click [here](#)

http://www.jeuneafrique.com/jeune_afrique/article_depeche.asp?art_cle=AFP00906soulp_euqirf0

2. Upcoming events

Extra-ordinary AU Council of Ministers on 17-18 November 2006

An Extra-ordinary AU Council of Ministers will take place in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 November 2006 to prepare the January 2007 forthcoming AU Summit and in particular to discuss the institutional future of the African Union, including the future role of the African Union Commission.

<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/>

African Union Private Sector Forum to be held on the 28-30 November

The key objective of the forum is to elaborate a development strategy and action plan to empower and promote an African private sector that can play a significant role in the African economies to achieve, among others, poverty reduction and other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/Past/2006/November/EA1/Advert_Private_Sector_Forum_Cairo.pdf

For a complete list of events regarding AU institutions, see:

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

3. Further reading:

UNCTAD: "Doubling Aid: Making the 'Big Push' work"

This report examines how a doubling of the aid to Africa might lead to sustainable development and calls for changes in the current development practice.

<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=7218fItemID=2068<=1>

World Bank: Fewer conflicts and increased economic growth has made 2005 a turning point for the continent"

The World Bank's report 'Africa Development Indicators 2006' found that 16 African states had managed to maintain annual economic growth of more than 4.5% since the 1990s. Meanwhile, the number of African conflicts had fallen from a peak of 16 in 2002 to five in 2005. On a more negative note, the bank said foreign investment in the continent was just \$10.1bn in 2004, only 1.6% of global foreign investment and that more than 50% of the funds were spent in Nigeria and Sudan. In more positive vein, the bank's report said that countries including Senegal, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Uganda and Ghana were on course to meet the target of halving poverty by 2010 - five years ahead of schedule.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTSTATINAFR/Resources/ADI_2006_text.pdf

Afrique Union, a new monthly journal on the African Union

A new monthly journal entitled « Afrique Union » providing general information on the African Union has been launched this week in several West Africa capitals. Only available in French.

<http://www.angolapress-angop.ao/noticia-f.asp?ID=484576>

3. African Regional Economic Communities

Southern African Development Community – SADC

Summit on regional integration

An extraordinary Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit was held in Midrand, South Africa, on October 23, 2006. The purpose was to consider regional, economic and political integration, and covered the launching of the Free Trade Area (FTA) by 2008, the preparations for the Customs Union by 2010 and SADC's position on the African Union Government.

http://www.sadc.int/news/news_details.php?news_id=810

Trudi Hartzenberg, Tralac's Executive Director and Prof Gerhard Erasmus, a Tralac associate, comment on what can be expected from the Extraordinary SADC Summit on Regional Integration. The article also mentions implications that the EPA negotiations may have for the regional integration.

<http://www.tralac.org/scripts/content.php?id=5419>

East African Community - EAC

Rwanda and Burundi will join East Africa in November

The two countries have signed agreements accepting all conditions, including joining the two-year-old EA Customs Union. According to the article the official pronouncement will be made in Arusha mid November.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200610170203.html>

Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS

10th ECOWAS-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting. 27 October 2006. Final Communiqué
Issues that were addressed include: the peace and security and post-conflict issues in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone; consultations under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement between the EU, Togo and the Republic of Guinea; elections in DRC; EPAs, Human rights and good governance; migration; institutional matters.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st14/st14672.en06.pdf>

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

1. The 10th European Development Fund implementation

For the 10th EDF to enter into force, the Council has to adopt both an implementing regulation and a financial regulation according to different procedures. A financial regulation for the 10th EDF is now being prepared by the European Commission services which will seek to harmonize it as much as possible with the EC budget financial regulation. It will be discussed and negotiated next year to enter into force at the beginning of 2008 and has to be jointly approved by ACP countries. The financial regulation as well as its translation into practice will have key repercussions on the implementation of the 10th EDF and its effectiveness. ACP countries should thus carefully follow these negotiations and involve practitioners. Different documents also need to be ratified for the 10th EDF to enter into force and 10th EDF funds to become available for ACP partners.

EC budget financial regulation

EU Economic and Financial Affairs Council on 7 November approved a draft regulation aimed at amending regulation on the financial regulation applicable to the EU's general budget. The draft will be forwarded to the European Parliament with a view to a conciliation on the text before its adoption by the Council. The Council suggests that the conciliation meeting be held in the margins of the Ecofin Council's meeting on 21 November.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ecofin/91540.pdf

EC Proposal for a revised EC budget financial regulation. COM (2006) 213
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0213en01.pdf

10th EDF implementing regulation

Proposal for a council regulation on the implementation of the 10th European Development Fund

This proposal covers the programming and decision-making procedures. It reflects the principles adopted by the Council and the Parliament through the new Development Cooperation Instrument. Major changes compared to the 9th EDF include: an enhanced focus by the EDF management committee on strategic issues, the establishment of a framework for co-financing that will be further elaborated in the financial regulation, special management procedures for the Peace Facility,

increased possibilities for regional co-operation including between the ACPs and outermost regions, the introduction of a programming of the intra-ACP envelope and the emphasis of the principle of coordination between the Member States and other donors.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0650en01.pdf

10th EDF ratification process

Note of the European Commission to the Council on the 10th EDF ratification process.

This note highlights the ratification procedure that has to be respected for the 10th EDF to enter into force. Because of its intra-governmental nature, the revision of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, the revision of the internal agreement and the financial protocol have to be ratified by all EU Member States and two thirds of ACP countries. For the 9th EDF, it took two years and half. If it were to be the case again, 10th EDF funds could only start to be committed at the beginning of 2009. As explained in the note, 9th EDF funds are expected to be fully committed by the end of 2007, which is the date of the sunset clause by which 9th EDF funds can no longer be committed. The ratification process of the 10th EDF is thus key for ACP countries: if it is not ratified by the end of next year, they would risk to have a "funding gap".

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st13/st13928.en06.pdf>

Programming

Eurostep seminar on the programming of the 10th EDF: echos of the programming process

EC Officials, some ACP ambassadors and various European and ACP NSAs representatives participated in the seminar on the 8 of November 2006. Issues such as the insufficient involvement on Non State Actors, the speedy process, the insufficient transparency of programming process on certain aspects (such as what was the exact involvement of Non State Actors in the programming process in each country) and the insufficient allocation of resources to social sectors were raised by NSAs. ACP ambassadors were quite concerned with the issue of the predictability of the EC cooperation with ACP countries, with the delays required to ratify EDF 10 financial protocol and the indicators that have been chosen to assess the progress of ACP countries in their fight against poverty as well as on governance. The EC officials have reiterated the principles of the programming process and the political objectives it should serve (Paris Declaration, European consensus, etc...) and has confirmed that CSPs are expected to be examined by the EDF Committee during the first semester 2007. Four case studies on 10th EDF programming in Cameroon, Burundi, Zambia and Benin were presented as well as an overall paper drawing lessons on the programming of the 10th EDF.

For more information on the seminar, please contact Eurostep: www.eurostep.org

2. Negotiation of Instruments of EC External Aid: Agreement over the Development Cooperation Instrument

The overall amount for the External Assistance 'Heading 4' of the European Commission Budget is € 48.46 billion of which just over € 6 billion would be spent in the first year, 2007, and then gradually rising over the 7 years to € 8 billion by 2013. The EC Budget and the EDF are the two sources of Community funding for developing countries.

The main outlines of the new budget are relatively simple. There are 4 geographic budget lines or instruments: corresponding to the developing countries (the DCI or Development Cooperation Instrument), a second for the potential future members of the EU (the IPA or Instrument for Pre-Accession), a third for neighbouring countries not expected to become EU members (the ENPI or European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument) and finally a fourth for cooperation with industrialised countries. There are then 4 other budget instruments dubbed 'horizontal' and dealing with four major areas of EU external assistance on a global basis: these are Macroeconomic Assistance, the EIDHR (European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights), the Stability Instrument and the Humanitarian Aid Instrument of which the first and the last already existed in the previous budget. One final feature is the continuation of 5 development programmes which will now be part of the two geographic instruments that include developing countries, the DCI and the ENPI, and will also be available for the large group of developing countries for which funds are still been kept outside the EU Budget, that is the ACP Group that are funded out of the separate EDF. These 5 programmes cover: Non-State Actors; Food Security, Human & Social Development, Environment and Asylum & Migration. The one other important instrument that is not included in the above description because it is not spent by the EC but by the Council Secretariat is the Common and Foreign Security Policy which covers EU expenditure on foreign policy and security – aside from the African Peace Facility – initiatives.

Council (GAERC) agreement on Development Cooperation Instrument

A political agreement was reached at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on the Development Cooperation Instrument.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/misc/91316.pdf

Draft recommendation for second reading on the Council common position for adopting a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/637/637450/637450en.pdf

Council (GAERC) agreement on Stability Instrument

EU Council approves EUR 2 billion financing instrument for the promotion of stability under the EU's external relations policy

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st14/st14882.en06.pdf>

Council (GAERC) agreement on European neighbourhood and partnership instrument

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/06/292&format=HTML&aged=0&uage=EN&guiLanguage=en>

World Economy and Development: "The EU's New Financial Instrument for Development: Real improvements but some dilutions"

This article discusses the establishment of the DCI and encourages civil society to continue to monitor the implementation of European aid to ensure that its promises are realised.

http://www.weltwirtschaft-und-entwicklung.org/cms_en/wearchiv/02c465986f0e00101.php

3. EU Development cooperation policy

EU General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions on the effectiveness of development aid and on Policy Coherence for development

The October 2006 GAERC has focused on the increase of aid effectiveness, defining a series of principles guiding the development action of the European Union, focusing especially on translating complementarity into practice. It has also defined a series of measures allowing development concerns to be better taken into consideration in the Council decision-making process.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st14/st14029.en06.pdf>

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st14/st14072.en06.pdf>

EU General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions on the annual report 2006 on the European Community's Development Policy and the Implementation of External Assistance in 2005

The Council notices results especially in a strengthened partnership approach. The council further makes suggestions on how to improve the 2007 annual report, and specifically calls for greater focus on coherence.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/91332.pdf

Joint Evaluation on Coordination and Complementarity of Country Strategy Papers with National Development Priorities.

This study examines the role which the Country Strategy Papers and similar policy documents of the EC and the equivalent of EU Member States play in improving coordination and complementarity between EC and MS. The study also assesses country ownership of development policies and cooperation strategies. It shows that while the Country Strategy Papers have proved to be useful instruments in the process of decentralisation, they have, in general, not contributed substantially to improved alignment, coordination or complementarity. Whereas the majority of the Country Strategy Papers can still be characterised as relatively inflexible and dominated by headquarters, this study reports that some donors are moving towards more flexible and strategic joint planning arrangements.

<http://www.three-cs.net/content/download/466/4565/file/TripleC3.pdf>

Germany to focus G8 on Africa investment

When it takes on the presidency of the G8 next year Germany proposes to build 'reforming partnerships' with well-governed African states. The agenda differs from that of Britain's in focusing not on increased funding but rather on encouraging good governance.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/01a1136a-5ed6-11db-afac-0000779e2340.html>

4. EU External Aid in Perspective : further reading

AFD, EUDN: Financing Development. What Are the Challenges in Expanding Aid Flows.

This report presents the results of a conference on financing development that was organised by the European Development Network (EUDN) and the French Development Agency (FDA) identifying the challenges in expanding aid flows.

<http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/home/publications/NotesDocuments/lang/en/pid/1730>

UNDP Human Development Report 2006.
Beyond Scarcity. Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis
<http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/>

"Aid Harmonisation: Challenges for Civil Society"
Paper which questions whether the present focus on aid harmonisation, as embodied in the Paris Declaration, yet another attempt to marginalise civil society in development processes.
<http://www.intrac.org/docs/viewpoint%20Aid%20Harmonisation.doc>

ODI Paper: "Reforming the international aid architecture. Options and ways forward."
This paper raises the question of a need to reform the international aid system in order to ensure that the effectiveness of the aid that is delivered could be increased.
http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/working_papers/wp278.pdf

5. Other Relevant Matters

FES: Perspectives on the EU Institutional Change
This paper hopes to make a contribution to structuring the more and more confusing debate on the European Constitution and to make it more accessible again.
http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/docs/Constitution-Opinions_Compiled-FES_251006.pdf?ois=no

EC Communication: Legislative and Work Programme 2007
The communication by the Commission calls for new commitments to "an enlarged, sustainable, open and competitive Europe, a Europe of political achievement and political goals", as well as new efforts to reach an institutional settlement.
http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2007_en.pdf

EU General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions on EU enlargement
The Council welcomes the possible inclusion of Bulgaria and Romania as of 1 January 2007, and commends the two countries for the reforms undertaken and invites them to complete their final preparations.
http://www.eu2006.fi/news_and_documents/conclusions/vko42/en_GB/1161086056330/?u4.highlight=

EU General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions on Zimbabwe
The Council noted that the situation in Zimbabwe had not improved since the last discussion in the Council over a year ago. EU policy, including restrictive measures, remained in force. The EU would look to engage further with its African partners to promote reforms in Zimbabwe.
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/91351.pdf

Upcoming events

EU Council, 14-15 December 2006, Brussels
http://www.eu2006.fi/calendar/vko50/en_GB/1136456998803/?calYear=2006&calMonth=11

ACP Summit
The 5th ACP summit will take place in Khartoum, Sudan, in December.
<http://5thacpsummit.gov.sd/>

ACP EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

18 to 23 November - the agenda:

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/docs/ACPEUJPA-Agenda_18-231106.doc?ois=no

For more news on European external action, see Melissa Julian's weekly e-alert.
Registration at www.ecdpm.org

IV - Peace and Security

Peace and security issues in Africa continue to preoccupy the international community. With Sudan refusing UN involvement in the Darfur the burden of the peacekeeping operation continues to fall on the AU and the need for EU financing remains important. Simmering tensions in Somalia threaten renewed violence in the Horn.

1. Sudan

Darfur Peace Agreement Joint Commission

The DPA Joint Commission held its third meeting on the 12 November in Addis Ababa.

Communiqué:

http://www.iss.co.za/dynamic/administration/file_manager/file_links/DARFURCOM12NOV06.PDF?link_id=&slink_id=3851&link_type=&slink_type=13&tmpl_id=3

EU General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions on Darfur

The Council reiterated its commitment to the peace process in Sudan and emphasised its support of a UN peace keeping mission.

http://www.eu2006.fi/news_and_documents/conclusions/vko42/en_GB/1161088446188/?u4.highlight=

EU Council Decision on the European Union civilian military supporting action to the African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan.

The Council decided to extend the support of the African Union mission in Sudan to the 31 of December, awaiting the transition to a UN mission.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_296/l_29620061026en00240024.pdf

Béchar refusing blue helmets in Darfour

Sudanese President Omar al-Béchar has reaffirmed its opposition to blue helmets in Darfour after the condemnation of murderous attacks against refugee camps by the United Nations.

http://www.jeuneafrique.com/pays/soudan/gabarit_art_afp.asp?art_cle=AFP13336bchirruofra0

2. Somalia

Peace talks between Somalia's transitional government and Islamists were scheduled for the 30th of October, but have been postponed indefinitely.

"Threat of a regional war looms"

This article gives background information of the peace talks and suggests ways to proceed in the crises in Somalia.

[http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=287871&area=/insight/insight_afri
ca/](http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=287871&area=/insight/insight_afri
ca/)

"Somali talks fail amid war fears"

With neither side willing to accept the other's pre-conditions for talks, international mediators called on both parties to exercise restraint.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6107968.stm>

3. Upcoming events

Peace and Security Council Meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government
21- 23 November, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

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

Call for papers: African Conflict and Peace Review

A new academic journal will be launched during 2007, dealing with conflict and peace issues from a multi-disciplinary, and distinctly African perspective. The African Conflict and Peace Review will provide a vehicle for African scholars, and those focussing on Africa, to publish their views on issues of conflict and peace affecting the continent.

http://www.upeace.org/system/africa/news.cfm?id_activity=423&actual=2006

V - Governance

Conclusions of the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on Governance, 16-17 October 2006

The GAERC welcomed the recent Commission communication on Governance, as an important step towards a common EU understanding on democratic governance. The GAERC embraced the main principles and propositions of the EC Communication but invited the Commission to apply flexibility within the programming of the incentive tranches of the Governance Initiative in order for it to be inclusive, accountable and implemented with enough time while ensuring aid predictability. The GAERC also requested the Commission and Member States to engage in a joint review process on the Governance initiative, with regular expert-level cooperation and requested a report by the Commission to the Council in 2008.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/91351.pdf

European Development Days, 13-17 November 2006, Belgium

The European development days will take place in Brussels from 13 to 17 November 2006. The EC wishes to show its determination to take action on two pressing matters: enhancing public awareness about development cooperation and strengthening the effectiveness of the European Union's development assistance. An alternative event has been organised by different members of civil society on 13-14 November 2006 in order to build up a consolidated civil society position in view of the EC event.

On the development days: www.eudevdays.eu/

For further information on the civil society event, please send an email to julien.vaissier@actionaid.org

Discussion on the African Peer Review Mechanism

Interview with the Executive Director of the APRM Secretariat, Dr Bernard Kouassi, published in the October edition of AUC News, p. 11.

http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/News/Newsletters/Publication13_oct_2006.pdf

Discussion organised by the German Development Institute (DIE)

With the background of the final reports of Ghana and Kenya, the possibilities of the APRM as a tool to improve governance in Africa were discussed. Dr. Francis Appiah and Rev. Jephthah Gathaka, representatives from the National APRM Governing Councils of Ghana and Kenya respectively, were on the panel. To read more, click [here](#)

Central African NGOs call for the ratification of the Protocol on the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights

Central African non-governmental organisations are urging states within their region to ratify the protocol on the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights to bolster the fight against impunity and corruption.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=56104>

For further reading

The October edition of OECD / DAC News focuses on corruption.

Among other issues, the DAC news underlines that the increase of ODA spent on good governance is mainly due to exceptional flows in Afghanistan and Irak.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/49/42/37530473.htm>

Transparency International launches 2006 Corruption Perceptions Index

http://www.transparency.org/news_room/latest_news/press_releases/2006/en_2006_11_06_cpi_2006

Upcoming Events:

Africa Forum on the Fight Against Corruption

21- 23 November 2006, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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

VI - EPA Negotiations

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and regions are experiencing significant capacity constraints, which impede their ability both to negotiate economic partnership agreements (EPAs) with the European Union (EU) and to adequately implement an EPA.

Although these constraints are well acknowledged in Europe, the European Commission (EC) has been very reluctant to take this approach, despite numerous formal requests from the ACP to include development support as part of the EPA negotiations. The EC instead argued that (1) the EPA negotiations as foreseen in the Cotonou Agreement were about trade and trade-related issues only, (2) development assistance is already covered by the Cotonou Agreement through the European Development Fund (EDF) and lastly (3) that the European Commission does not have the mandate from EU member states to enter negotiations or agreements on development assistance.

Nevertheless, at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) on 16-17 October, the EU Member States agreed to provide bilateral funds for Aid for Trade (A4T) on top of the EDF administered by the EC (which the Council agreed in June 2005 to amount to EUR 22.7 billion for the 2008-13 period). A substantial share of such trade-related assistance (EUR 1 billion each by the EC and collectively by MS) will be earmarked for the A4T effort to support the EPAs currently being negotiated. However, it is unclear to which extent such resources will be in addition to all existing ongoing trade-related support provided by the EU to developing countries or simply constitute a re-packaging of existing aid commitments towards trade and regional integration objectives. In addition, delivery mechanisms and procedures need to be carefully designed to ensure the effective disbursement of funds. Indeed, given the operational weaknesses of the EDF (such as low levels of disbursement or cumbersome procedures) recognized by many observers, both inside and outside the European institutions, appropriate rules and procedures will be crucial for effective, timely and efficient delivery of Aid for Trade resources.

The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 16-17 October 2006

Council conclusions:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/newsWord/en/gena/91351.doc>

Council's focus on development and trade:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3/fo/showPage.asp?id=1129&en>

1. EPAs

Commonwealth hosts meeting on ACP-EU negotiations

Ministers representing the six regional African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries' blocks had a two-day meeting at the Commonwealth Secretariat's headquarters in London as a measure for them to facilitate the negotiations.

http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/156022/acp_eu_negotiations_commence_at_commonwealth_headq.htm

Third ACP Chief Negotiators Coordination Meeting in Berlin on 30-31 October 2006
Ministers and Chief Negotiators of the ACP countries met in Berlin to discuss among each other major issues and politics of the EPA negotiations. The ACP representatives informed German Minister Wieczorek-Zeul and several high ranking officials from different German ministries about their main concerns and the development of the EPA negotiation process. The BMZ announced it would try to address development aspects in all facets of the EPAs during the upcoming German EU presidency.

Previous meetings:

<http://www.euacpepa.org:8080/index.php?page=41&lg=en>

Extended EPA deadline?

The EU Trade Commissioner Mr Peter Mandelson hinted that the EPA deadline could be extended but only with approval from other members of the WTO. "Our deadline to negotiate EPAs is January 2008 when the Cotonou waiver expires. We can be flexible - after all development is our goal, not deadlines. We should not flaunt the deadline, but equally we have no magic alternatives to offer, and it is politically unrealistic to think that WTO members would agree to extend the current waiver, and certainly not without a hefty price. But the key reason for moving quickly is not this - it is because the world is moving on and preferences are eroding - eroding permanently. It does the ACP no favours to cling to the past, as some NGOs want."

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/mandelson/speeches_articles/sppm121_en.htm

Brief on Economic Partnership Agreements

Jointly prepared by the Commission of the African Union, and the Economic Commission for Africa. The brief contains background information on the EPAs; discusses key issues such as regional integration, coordination of the negotiation groups and alternatives to EPAs; and sets out recommendations for the way forward.

http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/library_detail.php?library_detail_id=3279

EPAs: fostering regional integration?

A presentation by San Bilal, ECDPM, at the European Parliament Socialist Group Conference on Regional Integration and EPAs on the 19 October.

http://www.dgroups.org/groups/CoOL/docs/EPAs-RI-DEV-EP_SOC_Mtg-Bilal_191006.pdf?ois=no

EPA impact studies for West and Central Africa

Only available in French:

http://www.inter-reseaux.org/article.php3?id_article=1300

Oxfam paper: "Offering a Realistic Alternative: The EU's obligation to provide alternatives to the Economic Partnership Agreements."

This brief paper outlines the legal and moral obligation of the EU to offer the Pacific ACP an attractive alternative to the EPAs.

<http://www.oxfam.org.nz/imgs/pdf/realistic%20alternatives%20to%20the%20epas.pdf>

2. WTO negotiations

African Union Wants Trading Powers to Start Negotiations

The African Union has urged the group of Six (G-6) world trading powers to quickly restart the Doha Round trade negotiations if the hope of improving living standards and freeing the world's poor from absolute poverty is to be realized.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200611061570.html>

TWN Report: "A development assessment of the current WTO negotiations"

Report by Martin Khor, Third World Network

http://www.twinside.org.sg/title2/par/mk_assessment_of_present_Doha_talks_sept_06.doc

FES Briefing Paper: "Suspension of the World Trade Round. Multilateralism, Global Governance, and Development Policy in Crisis."

The author outlines the developments that led to the suspension of the Doha World Trade Round and identifies the issues that were contentious. He analyses the impact of several contended provisions on developed, emerging and developing countries. The concept and the potential benefits and limitations of Aid-for-Trade are being discussed. Finally, he looks ahead and explores scenarios for resuming negotiations.

http://www.fes-globalization.org/publications/FES_BP_14_Adam_WTO_Suspension.pdf

For more extensive information on EPAs and the state of the negotiations, please see:

<http://www.acp-eu-trade.org>

VII - Migration and development

Discussions between the EU and AU leaders on practical measures to manage migration intensify after a year of widespread international debate on migration and development

Louis Michel visits West Africa

Louis Michel, European Commissioner for development and humanitarian aid, visited Senegal, Guinea Conakry and Mauritania from 25 to 27 October to address development cooperation and migration issues. The link between migration and development aid was the focus of discussions with the Heads of State and Government of the three countries.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/1459&format=HTML&aged=0&uage=EN&quiLanguage=en>

GUINEA: EU assessment of government questioned

With continued human rights abuses, crumbling social services and economic freefall, many Guineans were incredulous after a senior European Union humanitarian official said he was "very favourably impressed" with the governments efforts at reform to win back aid.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=56268>

Alertnet article on Louis Michel's visit - EC: "Aid alone will not stem African migration"

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L26675565.htm>

Germany and France propose a new EU migration policy

French and German interior ministers proposed a new EU migration policy from the European Union's six largest countries.

<http://www.eux.tv/article.aspx?articleId=1314>

Issue paper: "Towards a common European asylum policy"

In this Issue Paper, Stefano Bertozzi outlines the work which has been done so far to construct a common EU approach towards asylum. This is followed by a critical appraisal of the EU's common asylum policy and future proposals by Ferruccio Pastore.

<http://www.theepc.be/en/pub.asp?TYP=TEWN&LV=187&see=y&t=&PG=TEWN/EN/detailpub&l=12&AI=543>

4th Conference Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and European Development Research Network (EUDN) on the topic "Migration and development: Mutual benefits?" Paris, 8 November 2006.

The conference aimed at promoting a constructive dialogue between academic research and operational expertise, in order to exchange views on this topic and explore lessons and perspectives for ODA policies.

Papers and programme available on:

<http://www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/EUDN2006>

Upcoming Events:

EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development
22-23 November 2006, Tripoli, Great Socialist Libya Jamahiriya

The EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development will involve governments of the EU and the entire African continent. The Conference will discuss a comprehensive agenda of issues of mutual interest in the area of migration and development, as a basis for a strengthened partnership in this area, based – inter alia – on the AU Common position on Migration and Development.

[http://www.africa-](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/Past/2006/November/SA/EU/Meeting_doc.htm)

[union.org/root/au/Conferences/Past/2006/November/SA/EU/Meeting_doc.htm](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/Past/2006/November/SA/EU/Meeting_doc.htm)

VIII - EU-AU Relations and Follow-up of the EU Strategy for Africa

1. EU – AU dialogue and institutional relations

Brazzaville communiqué and the launch of a joint Strategy

The 7th EU-Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting took place in Brazzaville (Congo) on 8-10 October. Discussions focused on the preparation of the joint EU-Africa strategy and in this context the ministers agreed to expedite work towards the holding of the second Europe-Africa Summit in Lisbon in 2007. A consultation will be launched in all areas relevant to the Joint Strategy. The ministers also had an extensive discussion of conflict situations, in particular in the Sudan and Somalia. The ministers agreed to hold the EU-Africa conference on Migration and Development in Tripoli, Libya, on 22-23 November 2006 and underlined the necessity of thorough preparation of this event.

Final Communiqué:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st13/st13823.en06.pdf>

2. EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership

In June 2006 – pursuing the agreement reached at the EU-South Africa Joint Cooperation Council in 2005 - the Commission put forward a Communication on a partnership between the EU and South Africa proposing a comprehensive, coherent and coordinated long-term framework for political cooperation, which does justice to South Africa's and the EU's unique positions in the new, globalised world. The objectives of this Partnership were planned to be achieved via an Action Plan to be submitted to the Joint EU-South Africa Cooperation Council on 14 November 2006, eventually leading to the adoption of a Joint Declaration by both Parties. The GAERC of 16/17 October had to adopt Council Conclusions providing general orientations on this matter. Delays have however been encountered.

Conclusions of the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on South Africa (16-17 October 2006)

The Council welcomed the Commission's communication and stressed that the strategic partnership between the EU and South Africa shall be complementary to and fully consistent with the EU Strategy for Africa. It is envisaged that the existing cooperation between the EU and South Africa will be enhanced by moving from political dialogue to shared objectives and strategic political cooperation on regional, African and global issues including conflict prevention and resolution in Africa.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st14/st14094.en06.pdf>

Conclusions of the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on South Africa (13 November 2006)

The Council reached political agreement on the following draft decisions: a decision authorising the opening of negotiations with South Africa in order to revise the EU-South Africa agreement on trade, development and cooperation; a decision giving guidance to the Commission for the revision of the agreement on trade, development and cooperation. Both decisions will be formally adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/91667.pdf

European Parliament resolution on an EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership

The Parliament welcomed the Commission's approach but urged it not to insist on including in the revised TDCA elements which would hamper South African economic development or the struggle for poverty alleviation, not to interfere in South Africa's decisions regarding the participation of the private sector in the provision of basic services and to draw lessons from the failure of the SACU-US free trade negotiations, in which the USA tried to impose unacceptable conditions on SACU.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2006-0430+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN?uage=EN>

3. EU partnership for the Horn of Africa

New EU partnership for the Horn of Africa

The European Commission adopted on the 20 October an "EU partnership for peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa." This strategy sets out a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention in the Horn of Africa, tackling the root causes of instability, and provides a political framework for concrete regional initiatives and for structured dialogue between partners.

http://www.europe-cares.org/africa/partnership_horn_en.html

"New EU strategy targets Horn of Africa instability"

This article describes the new strategy as more of a diagnosis than a cure. It also stresses the importance of the genuine support of all seven countries included in the strategy for it to have any chance of succeeding.

http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=287365&area=/breaking_news/breaking_news_africa/

British Parliamentarian delegation Calls on International Community to Pay Attention to Peace, Stability in the Horn of Africa

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200611010946.html>

4. The EU Strategy for Africa and the drafting of a joint EU/Africa Strategy

Conclusions of the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on the EU Strategy for Africa, 16-17 October 2006

The Council held an exchange of views on implementation of the EU Strategy for Africa, on the basis of a report by high representative Javier Solana and commissioner Louis Michel. It requested member states to provide input for a comprehensive report to be made, so as to enable the European Council to review the strategy's implementation at its meeting on 14 and 15 December.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/91351.pdf

Review of the implementation of the EU Strategy for Africa by the European Council in December 2006

A comprehensive report prepared by the European Commission and General Secretariat of the Council on the implementation of the EU Strategy for Africa will be discussed during the Council. It will take stock of the progress made and summarise the main actions taken at Community and Common Foreign and Security Policy level to implement the Strategy as well as include the activities of individual Member States.

A first Progress Report on Community Action has been prepared by the EC and the Council Secretariat and presented to the October GAERC. It includes the progresses made at the Community level to implement the EU Strategy towards Africa.

http://www.europe-cares.org/africa/docs/061012_FINAL_VERSION.pdf

Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy for Africa: EU Factsheet

<http://www.europe-cares.org/africa/docs/Fact sheet Strategy for Africa.pdf>

5. Other Relevant Information

First EU-Africa business forum (Brussels, 16-17 November 2006)

The forum, aimed at laying a more prolonged and open dialogue between the private sector in Africa and the EU, is foreseen in the EU Strategy for Africa. The Forum may become an annual event, like the similar Forums that exist already for cooperation between the private sectors in Europe and Asia and Latin America, for instance.

http://www.europe-cares.org/africa/business_forum_en.html

<http://www.eudevdays.eu>

EU General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions on the EU Africa Partnership on Infrastructure

The Council emphasised the importance of infrastructure, the related services and the regulatory framework for sustainable economic growth, trade, employment creation, continental and regional integration, food security and poverty reduction and recalled the contribution that improved infrastructure can make to the achievement of the MDGs.

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st14/st14032.en06.pdf>

Paper on The EU's New Strategy for Africa: Real and Effective Multilateralism? by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Brussels ' Working Group on European Integration

This paper analyses if the EU Strategy for Africa is able to meet the criticism and how better efficiency of employed means, more efficient efforts and thus a quicker accomplishment of set goals can be achieved.

The paper should be soon available on FES website: www.fes.de

IX – An actor in EU-Africa relations: Avenir NEPAD International

Avenir NEPAD International (ANI) is a civil society organisation composed of members of the African diaspora spread over the world, even if the association especially tries to link Europe and Africa. But as its President mentions, non-African

are also invited to participate. Romuald Dzomo Nkongo was, along with other students, one of the persons who created the association in November 2002. "The rationale behind this initiative was to show that Africa is on the move while connecting this positive image to a real opportunity for Africa's development: NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development)". It was founded on the belief that NEPAD will not achieve its goals if it remains a technocratic project, removed from constructive criticism.

ANI therefore takes many actions in Europe and in Africa around the different objectives of NEPAD, targeted as well to public institutions as to the diaspora itself. Among others: preparing proposals that will be addressed to NEPAD and all its strategic partners in order to promote the participation of citizens; organizing training workshops for citizens to appropriate and understand the workings of the NEPAD; organizing debates amongst leaders, politicians, researchers, journalists, African specialists, diplomats, business men and women as well as citizens to reflect and offer suggestions for the success of the NEPAD. Recently, ANI co-organised a seminar at the French Senate on "The African Union and its diasporas: analyses and perspectives for an enhanced contribution of the diaspora to the development of the Continent". ANI is regularly in touch with the African Union and welcomes the integration of NEPAD into the Union in order to make of it an even more efficient tool.

For further information:

www.avenir-nepad.org

www.avenir-nepad.tg (Togo)

www.avenir-nepad.org.uk (U-K)

<http://www.avenirnepad-germany.org> (Germany)

ECORYS Nederland BV

P.O. Box 4175

3006 AD Rotterdam

Watermanweg 44

3067 GG Rotterdam

The Netherlands

T +31 (0)10 453 88 00

F +31 (0)10 453 07 68

E netherlands@ecorys.com

www.ecorys.com

Registration no. 24316726

ECORYS Macro & Sector Policies

T +31 (0)10 453 87 53

F +31 (0)10 452 36 60

Editors: Jean Bossuyt (jb@ecdpm.org) and Marie-Laure de Bergh (mdb@ecdpm.org) with the participation of Frederic Ceuppens (fc@ecdpm.org) and Sara Erlandsson (se@ecdpm.org).

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent any official view of the European Commission.