



Une version française de cette e-alert sera disponible dans quelques jours sur le site : <http://www.ecdpm.org/eu-africa-alertfr/>

Both versions are posted on the web, along with previous issues, at: www.ecdpm.org/eu-africa-alert

EU-Africa e-alert -- No. 7 / April-May 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.

Exceptionally, we had to do the April and May issues together.

Contact: europafrica.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: Towards the Lisbon summit: the public consultation on an EU-Africa joint strategy**
- II - EU-AU relations**
- III – The African Union: Africa in a broader context and the RECs**
- IV – EU external aid: EDF 10, new instruments of EC external aid and EU development policy**
- V – Peace and Security**
- VI – Governance**
- VII – EPA negotiations**
- VIII – Migration and development**
- IX – An actor in EU-AU relations: Front Line**

.....

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

The public consultation

Conference on Civil Society and the Joint EU-Africa Strategy

As the final step of the first phase of the public consultation, ECDPM organised a **Conference on Civil Society and the Joint EU-Africa Strategy** in cooperation with VENRO, the Association of German development NGOs. The Conference, which was held on 23 and 24 April 2007 in Bad Honnef, was attended by 104 participants and built on the topics raised in the internet consultation as well as in the institutional negotiations. This editorial presents the main outcomes of the conference. Click [here](#) to read the editorial.

An African participants perspective on the Conference on civil society and Joint EU-Africa Strategy

Reactions on the conference in Bad Honnef by Mr. Joseph Ssuuna of the PELUM Association, Zambia.

[Read article](#)

[African civil society consultation](#)

As an initial step in the African Civil Society Organizations' Consultation on AU - EU Joint Strategy for Africa's Development a conference was held in Accra, Ghana, from 26 - 28 March 2007. It was organised by the African Citizens Directorate (CIDO) of the African Union Commission and attended by 43 participants from African civil society organisations.

[Consultation of Parliaments](#)

EC Development Commissioner argues European Parliament must take the lead on consultation of Parliaments in EU-Africa Strategy. He states: "It is essential that the Pan-African Parliament should make its voice heard on its vision for the Joint Strategy and that it should provide the necessary positive momentum to enable the national and regional African parliaments to participate fully in the debates. Any joint action between the European Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament would be welcome in this regard."

Europafrica bulletin

The Europafrica bulletin is issued electronically and gives you an up-date on the public consultation for a joint EU-Africa Strategy. To subscribe, send an e-mail to: europafrica@ecdpm.org

For previous versions, click [here](#)

Internet consultation

[Report of internet consultation](#)

The first phase of the public consultation has reached its end and a report of the internet consultation is completed. Over 200 contributions were received, including 37 position papers and more extensive contributions by organizations.

MDGs as basis for the AU-EU joint strategy

[Contribution by UN Brussels](#)

Need for a serious political dialogue

[Contribution by BOND](#)

All EU engagement should be 'conflict sensitive'

[Contribution by the Africa Group of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, EPLO](#)

For all position papers, click [here](#)

The institutional negotiations

First draft outline of Strategy endorsed at joint Ministerial Troika Meeting

A draft first outline of a joint strategy has been prepared by EU and AU officials that have participated in negotiations since February. It was endorsed at the joint Ministerial Troika Meeting on 15 May. The results of the public consultation have been presented to the officials. Views from civil society, parliaments and member states will continuously be taken into consideration up until the Lisbon Summit, where the final version of the strategy should be endorsed. It was reiterated at the Ministerial Troika that the summit is planned to take place in December this year. The draft outline will be made public shortly, please refer to the consultation website for news on this:

<http://europafrika.org/>

[Final communiqué](#) from Ministerial Troika

.....

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

[Launch of Africa infrastructure fund in the framework of the existing EU Strategy for Africa](#)

EC, European Investment Bank and EU Member States have signed a memorandum of understanding setting up a trust fund to finance infrastructure in Africa. The Trust Fund is a financial instrument of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership, one of the pillars of the new EU Strategy for Africa adopted by the European Council in December 2005.

EU-South Africa Ministerial troika meeting held in the margins of the GAERC on 14 May 2007

An action plan of the EU-South Africa strategic partnership building on existing relations between the EU and South Africa has been approved by the EU at the GAERC meeting.

[Action Plan](#)

[Press conference](#)

2. EU-AU relations in a broader context

EU-Africa joint Ministerial Troika Meeting

The 8th Troika meeting took place in Bonn 15 May. Apart from the joint EU-Africa strategy (see focus section above) continued and increased EU support of the African Peace and Security Architecture was discussed. Other matters on the agenda included the promotion of democratic governance as an essential basis for the cooperation between Africa and the EU; increased dialogue on human rights; the promotion of intra-African trade; and developing an implementation roadmap for the joint Declaration of the Africa-EU Conference on Migration and Development in Tripoli in December 2006.

[Final communiqué](#) from Ministerial Troika

[German minister visits AU headquarters](#)

The Chairperson of African Union Commission, Professor Alpha Oumar Konaré, met on 6 May the German federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, H. E Mrs. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa. The Chairperson highlighted the need for Africa to have sufficient resources in order to solve its problems. He appealed to member states of the AU to be more committed and encouraged members of the Group of Eight (G8) to fulfill promises made in the past. Mrs. Wieczorek-Zeul assured the AU that during its term as Chair of the G8, Germany will do its best to ensure that promises made by the group are fulfilled.

[African Voices in Europe](#)

African Voices in Europe exposes the failures of EC aid to reach farmers and livestock keepers across Africa, and explores how EC aid could be more effectively targeted to achieve its objective of poverty reduction. The new website highlights the plight of small-scale farmers and livestock keepers in remote and deprived areas of Africa who are struggling to cope with worsening drought, HIV/AIDS pandemic and conflicts.

3. Upcoming events

[Calendar of the negotiations for a joint EU-Africa Strategy as well as the public consultation](#)

[Africa-Europe business forum](#)

The Second EU-Africa Business Forum is scheduled to take place in Accra, Ghana, on 21-22 June, 2007. The African Union and the European Union have institutionalised the Forum as part of efforts to improve the environment for business and increase investment in Africa. Discussions will include the topics of 'interconnectivity', 'trade issues' and 'entrepreneurship'.

Download the [aide memoire](#)

[ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly](#)

23-28 June in Wiesbaden, Germany. Topics on the agenda includes: trade negotiations; Good governance, transparency and accountability in relation with the exploitation of natural resources in ACP countries; the situations in Zimbabwe and Darfur; as well as workshops on: "Consequences of the sugar regime for producers and manufacturers in Europe"; "Climate change monitoring"; and health.

.

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

1. African Union

Institutional future of the AU

[Launch of a public Debate on the future of the AU](#)

Next AU Summit to be held in Accra (Ghana) on 25 June to 6 July 2007 will be devoted to a grand debate on the institutional future of the AU. The AU therefore launched a public consultation to undertake in-depth discussions on the nature of the continent's integration agenda in order to determine "where we are, where we are going, when and how to get there."

*Chairperson of the AU at the Extraordinary Council of Ministers in South Africa:
"Continent headed for a United States of Africa"*

"The African Union is at a turning point in its history, heading towards the United States of Africa. What remains now is to decide what strategy to take and at what pace" as said by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Prof. Alpha Oumar Konaré in the wake of the meeting of the Executive Council from 8-9 May, in Durban, South Africa where Foreign Affairs Ministers brainstormed on the state of the Union. Referring to the nomination of new commissioners, the chairperson mentioned that the AUC might have to look for a transitional formula that would see the new Commission come into place in January 2008.

http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/News/Press/2007/may/Accredi_14_May_07.doc
http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/2007/May/EXCL/Draft_Agenda.doc

[The Pan-African Parliament: Proposal on the Union Government of Africa](#)

The PAP issued a draft report presenting its perspective on the Grand Institutional Debate on the future of the AU and made specific recommendations on the transitional mechanisms and processes required to achieve the goal of realizing the Union Government of Africa. The Report concludes by recommending that the process of creating a Union Government be built upon past successes, that it fast tracks the building blocks for such a Union, and accelerates the implementation of all measures that would facilitate the creation of the Government.

[Pan-African Unity: Can Africa match the bid?](#)

The idea of a United States of Africa is the visionary outcome of a Pan African Unity. Gichinga Ndirangu presents the case for a United States of Africa and points out some of the major stumbling blocks that need to be overcome before Nkrumah's dream of a united Africa becomes a reality.

[The United States of Africa: The challenges](#)

Demba Moussa Dembele examines the external and internal challenges faced by Africa in the face of globalization and the US led war on terror and asks if the current African leadership is up to building the United States of Africa in the present global environment.

[Give Room for Civil Society Participation Before Adoption](#)

Sanusi Ibraheem, The Intellectual Group, Nigeria, welcomes in an interview with Pambazuka news a united Africa referring to for instance free movement across the continent. He calls for a thorough consultation with Civil Society before the proposal

is adopted, both to take their experiences into account and also to enable greater unity also among the citizens of Africa, and not only among the governments.

The Pan African Parliament

[Consultative Dialogue between African Civil Society Organisations and the Pan African Parliament](#)

The PAP in collaboration with the Southern Africa Trust held the first Consultative Dialogue with African civil society organisations under the theme “Building Effective Mechanisms for Civil Society Engagement with Pan African and Regional Institutions” on 7-8 May, 2007 at the Gallagher Estate, Midrand, South Africa.

[Pan African Parliament Session](#)

The Seventh Ordinary Session of the Pan African Parliament, PAP, is being held in Midrand, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa 07-18 May. The agenda includes debate on peace and security; environment; and the Union Government of Africa. For further information see the African Unions website: <http://www.africa-union.org/>

2. Africa in a broader context

[High Level Africa Progress Panel to focus world leaders' attention on MDGs](#)

The Africa Progress Panel was launched in April with the aim to focus world leaders' attention on making the most of the growing number of opportunities for progress in Africa. It will also comment on the challenges African governments, the G8 and other international partners face in meeting the commitments made towards Africa's development

[UNECA Conference of African Ministers on MDGs.](#)

The two-day meeting on 2-3 April, hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), was convened on the theme: “ Accelerating Africa's Growth and Development to Meet the MDGs: Emerging Challenges and the Way Forward .” Noting that time is fast running out for making the necessary investments that will ensure that Africa reaches the MDGs, the Ministers committed, together with the international community, to ensure that 2007 becomes the year for scaling-up interventions at national, regional and global levels.

[African Development Bank Group's 2007 Annual Meetings will take place in Shanghai, China, from May 16-17](#)

The 42nd Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank and the 33rd Meetings of the Board of the African Development Fund are being held after a major Sino-African Summit in Beijing in November 2006. The Annual Meetings will provide an opportunity to highlight and further explore growing economic relations between Africa and Asia.

3. African Regional Economic Communities

Common market for Eastern and Southern Africa - COMESA

[COMESA Summit in May 2007](#)

The COMESA Policy Organs and the Authority of Heads of State and Government meet in Nairobi, Kenya between May 11th – 23rd, 2007 to deliberate on important issues affecting the realization of the COMESA Vision.

East African Community - EAC

EAC Council of Ministers meeting

The Thirteenth Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the East African Community was held in Arusha on 18 April 2007. The agenda included a revision of the EAC budget.

Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS

ECOWAS-EU Ministerial Meeting

Luxembourg, 24 April 2007. Issues discussed include EPAs, EU Africa Strategy and the joint EU-Africa Strategy. Both parties stressed the importance to accelerate the 10th EDF ratification process. [Final communiqué](#)

Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa – EMCCA

8th Summit of the EMCCA – N'Djamena (Chad) April 25

The Summit was the occasion for EMCCA Heads of States to discuss the follow-up on the institutional reforms decided in March 2006 : allocation of posts between the Member States, launch of a regional passport, replacement of the Executive Secretariat by a Commission etc...

http://www.cameroon-info.net/cmi_show_news.php?id=18996 (French)

http://www.rfi.fr/actufr/articles/088/article_51337.asp (French)

Intergovernmental Authority on Development - IGAD

IGAD Council of Ministers

The 26th Ordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers convened on April 13, 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya considered among others the prevailing situation in Somalia and the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of Sudan.

Southern African Development Community – SADC

SADC Heads of state support Zimbabwe.

The 2007 Extra-Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government was held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania 28-29 March. The Extra-Ordinary Summit reaffirmed its solidarity with the Government and people of Zimbabwe and mandated H.E President Thabo Mbeki to continue to facilitate dialogue between the opposition and the Government. The Summit further appealed for the lifting of all forms of sanctions against Zimbabwe.

[Summit Communiqué](#)

"Mbeki Needs to Move from Quiet Diplomacy to Open Mediation"

An article from IPS reports that debate is underway among analysts and civil society activists about how South African President Thabo Mbeki should proceed in fulfilling the mandate given to him last month by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to continue mediating between Zimbabwe's government and opposition.

.

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

1. EU Development cooperation policy and instruments

ODA level

At the occasion of the publication of the OECD report on aid level and the EC Communication on the follow up of the Monterrey commitments in terms of ODA increase, development NGOs have stressed the risk for EU not to deliver on its ODA commitments given the high percentage of debt release granted these last years, which should not be accounted for as ODA according to them.

Keeping Europe's promises on Financing for Development

This EC communication concludes that the overall prospects for the EU's attaining the next milestone ODA targets by 2010 are good, if core issues are addressed to sustain the EU's credibility as the largest provider of development finance and if public opinion supports scaling up.

[Staff Working Paper](#)

EC Communications:

[Keeping Europe's promises on Financing for Development](#)

[De Monterrey au Consensus européen pour le développement : respecter nos engagements](#)

[OECD DAC Development Co-operation Report 2006](#)

Aid funding, recently rising by 5% per year, would have to rise by 11% every year from 2008 to 2010 to reach agreed goals. Includes early findings from the first survey monitoring the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

'Hold the Applause! EU governments risk breaking aid promises'

CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development, has published a report where they together with NGOs from across Europe have calculated how much European governments and Commission have effectively given, following the release of OECD aid figures for 2006. The report shows how governments inflate aid figures so that official figures suggest that aid is both higher and rising more quickly than is actually the case. The recommendations given include increased aid, greater transparency and ending of tied aid.

<http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/Page.php?ID=4&uage=enghttp://www.concord-europe.org/>

Click [here](#) to read the Report

Coordination, complementarity and division of labour

[EU GAERC has adopted conclusions on a voluntary code of conduct aiming at improving the division of labour among EU Member States and the EC](#)

The three dimensions of complementarity envisaged in the code of conduct are in country complementary, cross country complementarity and cross sectoral complementarity.

[Evaluation of coordination and complementarity of European assistance to local development and trade capacity building](#)

Two joint-evaluation studies, which have been commissioned by the EU Heads of Evaluation Services Task Force for the evaluation of the 3Cs completed in 2006, have

been published in the 'Studies in European Development Co-operation Evaluation' publication series. They focus on the extent to which the EU member states and institutions have dedicated efforts in the areas of coordination and complementarity of assistance to local development and trade capacity building, and assess how effective these actions have been.

[*German Development Institute. Towards a division of labour in European development co-operation: Operational options*](#)

This study analyses options to improve the division of labour between the various donors of the European Union: the European Commission and the Member States. The study developed proposals how the GAERC guiding principles could be implemented and how the EU could advance towards a division of labour in development co-operation. These recommendations refer to in-country, cross-country and cross-sector division of labour.

European Development Fund

[*EC Annual Report on EDF Financial Management*](#)

In the report the Commission concludes that it met all its objectives for 2006. A major risk identified for EC support to ACP states is ratification of the 10th EDF by EU states in time to start committing 10th EDF funds from January 2008, when 9th EDF funds will no longer be available.

[*No global qualitative review of 9th EDF*](#)

According to the last edition of 'EU-News' published by Aprodev, Cidse and Caritas Europe, there will be no global qualitative review of the 9th EDF and its impact on poverty reduction. Lessons learned are expected to be drawn at country level and taken up in the new Country Strategy Papers (CSP). The article also informs that EU Member States accorded the right to oversee ACP Country Strategy Papers to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly which will receive the draft CSPs at the same time as the Member States' EDF committee.

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the implementation of the 10th European Development Fund

This proposal contains appropriate modifications and improvements to the programming and decision-making procedures compared to the 9th EDF, as well as harmonised Community and EDF procedures as far as possible, including on co-financing aspects, and establishes particular management procedures for the African Peace Facility. The draft Council Regulation has been approved by the Development Ministers at the GAERC meeting on 14-15 May 2007.

[*Draft Council regulation for the 10th EDF
GAERC conclusions*](#)

[*Major trends in EDF aid allocation 1975-2000 – Background to 9th EDF re-allocations and 10th EDF programming*](#)

This briefing compiled by the European Research Office analyses the trends of EDF aid.

[*EU News from Aprodev, CIDSE, Caritas : a 'lost' 10th EDF*](#)

The more pessimistic are talking about a lost 10th EDF as it seems that the ratification process by the 27 EU Parliaments and two third of ACP Parliaments might be delayed until 2009 or 2010. This would mean that the five years of the 10th EDF

would run from 2010 to 2015 and that de facto there will have been no 10th EDF for the period from 2005 to 2010.

[New EU financial rules and funding opportunities 2007-2013](#)

This EC information pack describes how new funds can be accessed.

Other relevant information on the Programming and implementation of EC aid

[Background Paper on Energy Cooperation between Africa and Europe](#)

The EU Presidency and the Commission have jointly formulated a paper on energy cooperation with Africa focusing on joint efforts and the sharing of knowledge and experience between Africa and Europe. Recommendations include increasing development-oriented use of oil and gas revenues; the scaling up investment in energy infrastructure, including promotion of renewable energy solutions and energy efficiency; and mainstreaming climate change in energy development cooperation.

[United Nations calls for action on climate change](#)

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had a meeting on 2-5 April in Brussels on 'Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability'. They report that poor countries would be worst hit by climate change and that the world must begin to adapt to the effects of climate change urgently or face a bill of many billions of dollars and a heavy toll in human suffering within a few decades.

[United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report](#)

2. EU External Aid in Perspective: G8 and other relevant matters

Third OECD International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results

The Third Roundtable—which followed on the success of the Second Roundtable on MfDR (Marrakech, 2004) and the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Paris, 2005)—focuses on building countries' capacity to manage for development results. The agenda was built on the recommendations country representatives and development partners made through an 18-month Mutual Learning program.

<http://www.mfdr.org/>

G8

Heads of state and government from the Group of 8 (G8) leading industrialized nations will meet in Germany, which holds the current G8 presidency on 6-8 June 2007. Read [more](#)

[G8 Development Ministers meeting. Chair's Summary](#)

Meeting in Berlin on March 26-27 annual meeting ahead of the G8 summit G8 Ministers with responsibility for development policy together with representatives from Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa and the OECD, and from the African Union (AU), the African Development Bank (ADB), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met in Berlin on 26 and 27 March 2007 to discuss key development policy issues on the agenda of the German G8 Presidency.

[Development : more uncertain promises of aid. Julio Godoy.](#)

Non-governmental organisations have expressed doubts that the commitments declared in Berlin at the G8 Development Ministers meeting will be kept.

[G8 calls for increased scrutiny of aid](#)

The increasing volumes of development aid coming from powerful emerging economies such as China and India should meet higher governance and transparency standards, the Group of Eight leading industrial states said in -Berlin on 27 March.

['Africa after the Africa Commission. What priorities for the German G8?'](#)

A high level policy forum brought together senior DFID and NGO staff, MPs, private sector representatives, Africanists, development academics, and key journalists for high-level discussions on the future of Africa in the run-up to the G8 meeting in Germany (6-8 June). The Forum was held in London on 2 May, 2007. Key messages were formulated on aid, China, conflict, ICTs, climate change, civic engagement and accountability, and voice in international institutions.

Others

[ActionAid International: 'Real Aid 2: Making Technical Assistance Work'](#)

Political support for aid cannot be sustained without clear progress and far-reaching changes to how aid is planned, managed and delivered. Real progress on poverty requires more real aid. ActionAid calls on donors to:

- stop using technical assistance as a way of influencing policy choices and give developing countries the chance to come up with their own plans to build skills and capacity in the way that suits them
- pledge predictable, untied finance to support locally developed plans, including allowing developing countries to spend the money on other priorities

[Aid, Budgets and Accountability: A Survey Article](#)

An article from the Overseas Development Institute, UK, surveys the literature on improving aid effectiveness, focusing on General Budget Support (GBS). By providing direct support to developing country budgets, GBS aims to allow governments determine aid priorities themselves, reduce the costs of fragmented, project-based aid delivery, and strengthen domestic accountability of aid use. There is little evidence to support increasing aid through GBS.

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

.....

V - Peace and Security

EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)

This annual report from the EU Council to the European Parliament describes the main aspects and basic choices of the Common Foreign and Security Policy in 2006. It contains information about the instruments and priorities of the CFSP and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) as well as priorities in geographical areas, among them Africa. The GAERC has also held its six monthly review in presence of defence ministers with a specific mention to the importance it attaches to cooperation with African partners and the development of the African Peace and Security Architecture.

[Annual report](#)

GAERC conclusions :

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/94116.pdf

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/94115.pdf

Voluntary funding by Member States of the African Peace Facility

A common position should be taken by the Council of the EU in the ACP-EC Council of

Ministers on 25 May allowing member states to make additional contributions to the African Peace Facility. The African Union Commission shall be entrusted with the responsibility for managing such contributions in the framework of the African Peace Facility. This reallocation has been approved by the 14 May GAERC

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/07/st08/st08927.en07.pdf>

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/94115.pdf

EU conclusions on Sudan and Somalia

The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council held in Luxembourg, 23-24 April 2007 included conclusions on Sudan, Somalia, Zimbabwe Iran, Iraq, Middle East. The Council stresses the urgent need for an inclusive political agreement to solve the conflict in Darfur, and reiterates its strong support for the joint efforts of the AU and UN Special Envoys.

AU, RECS, G8 and other partners meet on peace and security

An annual consultation took taking place 14 May, at the African Union in Addis Ababa, between the AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the G8 and other partners, in the context of the Joint Africa/ G8 Plan to Enhance African Capabilities to Undertake Peace Support Operations.

New report of the International Crisis Group on the situation in Darfur

A new report by the International Crisis Group finds that almost a year after Sudan's government and one of three rebel factions signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), the humanitarian and security situation has deteriorated in the troubled western region of Sudan. Despite a recent lull, the post-DPA period has seen increased combat, including further government reliance on aerial bombardment and its allied Janjaweed militia.

Sudan-Chad: Sudan and Chad sign reconciliation deal

Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir and Chadian president Idriss Déby Itno signed a reconciliation accord in the Saudi Arabia capital, Riyadh, on the 3rd of May, aimed at ending tensions between their two countries.

New report of the International Crisis Group on Uganda

The latest International Crisis Group report examines the ten month old peace process between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Ugandan government. Both sides have agreed to renew their cessation of hostilities agreement and restart the Juba negotiation that stalled early this year.

Morocco: UN Security Council urges unconditional talks between Morocco and the Polisario Front

The UN Security Council unanimously approved Resolution 1754 on Monday 30 April, urging Morocco and the Polisario Front to hold direct and unconditional negotiations in order to resolve their 30-year conflict over Western Sahara.

.....

VI – Governance, Democracy and Human Rights

1. Governance in Africa

[APRM continental conference](#)

A conference on the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) was held in Accra, Ghana, 8-10 May and reiterated Africa's commitment to the APRM instrument to foster good governance and socio-economic development of the continent. Issues discussed include capacity constraints hampering progress and also called for the need to redouble efforts in finding innovative financing mechanisms to implement Africa's own development agenda.

Ordinary Kenyans have not felt a significant impact from the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) process, a new report has found.

The report, commissioned by the Open Society Initiative for East Africa (OSIEA) and OSI's Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project (AfriMAP), calls on the government to deliver a programme of action that will increase democratic space for Kenyans. Read [more](#)

[Sudan rejects ICC warrants on Darfour](#)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued its first warrants for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sudan's conflict-wracked Darfur region

[Africa: Transparency International releases country studies](#)

Transparency International (TI) has published nine detailed country studies that analyse the implementation of anti-corruption laws in Algeria, Burundi, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, and Uganda. The studies found that the nine countries have legal gaps with respect to requirements established by the international anti-corruption instruments most relevant for the region: the UN Convention against Corruption (2003) and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and Related Offences (2003).

['Parliaments, governance and accountability: What role for parliaments in poverty reduction?'](#)

This meeting was held on 18 May. It is the first meeting of four organised by ODI and the Africa All Party Parliamentary Group (AAPPG) exploring the role that parliaments in developing countries can play in delivering governance which is accountable and good for development.

[Rwanda: Ex-President pardoned](#)

Pasteur Bizimungu, the ex-President of Rwanda, was allowed to walk a free man from prison last week after he was pardoned by President Paul Kagame. It is expected to foster reconciliation in a society that has gone through the pains of genocide.

[Mauritania: First post-election government formed](#)

Mauritania's newly-appointed Prime Minister Zeine Ould Zeidane announced the formation of his government on Saturday 28 April, following a week of consultations with President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdellahi. A Ministry for relations with the Parliament and Civil Society was established.

[Mali: President Touré wins first run of contested Presidential elections](#)

Mali's president Amadou Toumani Touré has won the first run of Presidential elections organised on 29 April, with more than 70% of the votes. His main challenger, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, took about 18 per cent. The results of this fourth multiparty election in this country that is considered as a model for democracy were contested. The second run will take place on 13 May.

[The AU sends troops to secure elections in the Comoro Islands](#)

The Peace and Security Council of the AU has decided to send a mission for electoral and security assistance to the Comoro islands, for an initial period running from May 13 to July 31. The Comoro islands organise elections on June 10 and 14 for selecting Presidents for the three islands of the archipelago. In February, the European Union (EU) warned in a statement, "The EU is concerned by the recent political tensions between the Union of the Comoros and its member autonomous islands, arising from disagreement over the application of the institutional laws on the distribution of powers between Union and islands."

[Nigeria: Yar'Adua promises better polls in future](#)

Nigerian president-elect Umaru Yar'Adua has promised to review the conduct of the disputed April elections that gave him his mandate with a view to delivering better ones in 2011. Local and foreign observers said vote-rigging was so widespread that the elections were not credible, while the opposition has rejected the results. Yar'Adua has repeatedly said he believes he won fair and square.

[Benin: President wins election](#)

A coalition led by Thomas Boni Yayi, Benin's president, has taken control of parliament, according to election results announced by the country's constitutional court. According to a report by Al-Jazeera, Yayi said wresting control of parliament from traditional elites was key to pushing through anti-corruption reforms, which he claims prompted an attempt on his life last month.

Elections to take place in Seychelles (10 May); Burkina-Faso (13 May); Algeria (17 May)

For information on elections in Africa, see the database of the following website:

<http://africanelections.tripod.com/>

[Trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor Set for June 4 before the Special Court for Sierra Leone](#)

"The very fact that this man is going on trial is a victory over impunity. Taylor's indictment, apprehension and arrest are a credit to the persistence of the world community, the governments of the region, and above all the courageous people of Sierra Leone" said Stephen Rapp, Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

For news on Zimbabwe, please see the SADC and the Governance in EU-Africa relations sections

2. Governance in EU-Africa relations

[Global: Rich nations prodded on 'illegitimate' lending](#)

A study by international anti-debt campaigners argues that some debts owed by developing countries should not be paid at all. The report says that the Group of Seven (G7) most industrialised nations – Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Britain and the United States – lent money to regimes they knew to be corrupt or repressive in order to buy political allegiance.

[EU Council on Zimbabwe – 23 and 24 April 2007](#)

The Council condemned the acts of violent repression against the opposition in Zimbabwe and in response to those acts decided to extend the EU's visa ban list.

[Approaches to Parliamentary Strengthening: A Review of Sida's Support to Parliaments](#)

This report is a first time ever effort to map and review Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency support to parliaments and parliamentarians. The report states that there is a growing consensus that parliamentary strengthening programs have often fallen short of their goals because they have not been sufficiently "politically contextualized".

[Are NGOs undermining State capacity?](#)

In this article, Hugo Slim argues that under certain circumstances, NGOs can substitute States, hence preventing them from facing their responsibilities.

3. Further reading

[Both donors and recipient countries share the responsibility of fighting corruption – OECD 15 April 2007](#)

At the occasion of a Development Committee Meeting in Washington, Ministers of Development Cooperation and Heads of Agencies agreed to support increased action on the 'supply-side' of corruption. Ministers of Development Cooperation and Heads of Agencies agreed that developing and developed countries alike share the responsibility in fighting corruption. Interactions between the North and South must be accompanied by a push for tougher enforcement of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, ratification of UNCAC by OECD members and improved mutual legal assistance on issues like the recovery of stolen assets.

[Global: Understanding political corruption in low income countries](#)

This paper published by the Center for International Development examines corruption through the lens of political economy and by building on the large and growing empirical literature on the political behaviour of individuals in low income countries. It particularly focuses on the political behavior of individuals exposed to democratic political institutions and its implications for corruption.

[Update on Women's rights in Africa](#)

The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) has released a quarterly update on the campaign on the Popularization, Ratification, Domestication and Implementation of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa.

['Building the capacity for managing public service reform. The Tanzania experience.'](#)

This study by ECDPM focuses on the endogenous process of capacity development – the process of change from the perspective of those undergoing the change. The study examines the factors that encourage it, how it differs from one context to

another, and why efforts to develop capacity have been more successful in some contexts than in others.

.

VII - EPA Negotiations

In this e-alert we do not intend to give a comprehensive overview of the EPA negotiations and other trade related issues, since we consider that there are others with greater expertise in those issues. For extensive information on EPAs and the state of the negotiations, we therefore refer you to: <http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/> You can also receive monthly updates on key ACP-EU trade-related public information by subscribing to the acp-eu-trade newsletter at: <http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/index.php?loc=newsletter/>

EPA negotiations update

For an update on the EPA negotiations see the March - April issue of the two-monthly "[Trade Negotiations Insights From Doha to Cotonou](#)"

[EU offers full market access to Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions in EPA negotiations](#)

The EU has proposed to remove all remaining quota and tariff limitations on access to the EU market for all African, Caribbean and Pacific regions as part of the Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations. This proposal has received a cautious welcome by ACP countries, as well as raised concerns of EU member states arguing that it could disturb the balance of Europe's markets and undermine recent policy reform. For more details on the proposal and reactions click [here](#)

[EU says West Africa trade talks may stretch to 2008](#)

The European Commission is pressing West African governments to negotiate a deal on trade before a WTO waiver on current trade perks expires on December 31, but acknowledged on Thursday a short extension may be needed.

[A matter of political will - How the EU can maintain market access for ACP countries in the absence of EPAs](#)

Paper by Oxfam International and Third World Network Africa, 25 April 2007
The European Commission has threatened 76 of the world's poorest countries with lower access to the EU market - if they fail to sign the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) by the end of 2007, when their current market access preferences expire. This paper explains how the EU could still continue to provide them with a high level of market access, using the Generalized System of Preferences, GSP-plus scheme, without breaching World Trade Organisation rules. This level of market access would also be compatible with their developmental needs.

Towards an EU Aid for Trade strategy

The EC has issued its Communication for a future EU Aid for Trade Strategy which should be approved by the end of the year.

[communication](#)

[GAERC conclusions](#) of 14-15 May

.

VIII - Migration and development

[EU Council Justice and Home Affairs – 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.

[AU Consultative Meeting on the Draft AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa](#),

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 10 -11 May, 2007

The purpose of the consultation, according to Ms Macrine Mayanja, Acting Head of Political Affairs, is to discuss the draft convention in depth so that it can be consolidated prior to submission to a meeting of experts of Member States of the AU.

Further reading

[The Effect of Mode 4 Liberalization on Illegal Immigration](#),

by Mohamed Hedi BCHIR, February 2007, African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) Work in Progress No. 55

This paper aims to assess the impacts of the temporary movement of workers on the illegal immigration. It demonstrates that under some conditions, the liberalization of temporary movement of workers could lead to a decrease of illegal migration.

.

IX – An actor in EU-Africa relations: Front Line

The International Foundation Front Line was founded in Dublin in 2001 with the specific aim of protecting Human Rights Defenders all over the world. The organisation protects activists who work, non-violently, for any or all of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "Front Line indeed seeks to protect people who defend the rights of others, rather than campaigning on specific issues," says Vincent FOREST, head of the EU office.

Front Line provides urgent support to Human rights defenders: a 24/24h hotline exists, as well as internet security solutions for safeguarding communication privacy. Responses are very quick (within a couple of days) and can consist of targeted lobby actions or emergency grants for helping human rights defenders and their families relocate to a safer place, protect their offices, pay medical and legal fees, etc. The International Foundation also organises training sessions and engages in advocacy for strengthened protection of human rights defenders with individual governments and with regional and international organizations.

Front Line is based in Dublin, but has developed internship programmes aimed at providing practical support to the Geneva office of UN Special Representative on human rights defenders, and to the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. A second office was opened

in Brussels in July 2006, which is regularly in touch with the EU Council, EU Member States, the Commission and the Parliament. Among others, Front Line is active in the process towards the elaboration of a Joint Strategy between Africa and Europe.

On 8 May 2007, at the Royal Palace in Brussels, Front Line was awarded the King Baudouin International Development Prize 2006-2007. The biennial award acknowledges the work of persons or organisations that have made a substantial contribution to the development of countries in the South. Front Line activities will certainly benefit from that Prize. The International Foundation nevertheless wants to preserve its flexibility, hence developing its activities (through partnerships) rather than expanding itself as a structure.

Contact details:

<http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/>

Head office, Dublin

Tel: +353 (0)1 212 3750

Fax: +353 (0)1 212 1001

info@frontlinedefenders.org

Front Line EU office

Tel: +32 2 230 93 83

Fax: +32 2 230 00 28

Email: euoffice@frontlinedefenders.org.

24/24h Hotline: +353 1 21 00 489

.....

This e-newsletter is published by **European Centre for Development Policy Management** . ECDPM seeks:

- 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.

Editors: Marie-Laure de Bergh (mdb@ecdpm.org), 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 African Union Commission.