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EU-Africa e-alert -- No. 8 / June 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.

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I – Focus: Economic Partnership Agreements

Editorial

[Economic Partnership Agreements: the last effort?](#)

On the 25th of May, the Council of Ministers of European and ACP countries (Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific) met in Brussels, in order to evaluate the state of the controversial negotiation of “Economic Partnership Agreements” (EPAs), now underway between Europe and the six ACP regions. Nicolas Gérard, Researcher at GRESEA (Recherche pour une Stratégie Economique Alternative) gives his view of the process.

[Article 37.4 Review of the EPA negotiations](#)

According to Article 37.4 of the Cotonou Agreement, parties negotiating an EPA are to regularly assess the progress of the negotiations. The article also mandated the partners to undertake a formal and comprehensive review of the negotiations during 2006, in order to identify the outstanding issues and challenges and to make suggestions on the way forward. However, it was not until the end of May 2007, at the last Joint Council of ACP-EU Ministers, and a few months before the end-of-year deadline for the conclusion of the EPAs negotiations that the review was completed. See the focus section of the latest ACP-EU trade newsletter for more information and links to related documents.

[ACP-EC Council of Ministers results. EPA Joint Review text](#)

The ACP-EC Council of Ministers, meeting in Brussels on 25 May 2007, assessed the state of ongoing negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the ACP states and the EU.

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II - EU-AU Relations

The African Union and the European Union are conducting 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 and an EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon: the institutional negotiations

A draft first outline of a joint strategy was endorsed at the joint Ministerial Troika Meeting on 15 May. It can be downloaded [here](#). It was prepared by EU and AU officials that have participated in negotiations since February. The officials will continue to meet regularly up until the Lisbon Summit, which is planned for December. They will develop the strategy outline further, as well as draft an Action Plan, and both will be discussed at the EU-Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting on 31 October in Accra, Ghana.

The different institutions in both Africa and Europe are increasingly getting involved in the development of the joint strategy.

[Executive Council of the African Union](#)

The 11th session of the Executive Council will be held on 25-26 June in Accra, Ghana, and includes on its agenda the EU-Africa joint Strategy.

[Council of the European Union](#)

Within the Council of the European Union, an ad hoc working group has been set up to coordinate EU member states' positions on the wide range of issues covered by the Joint Strategy.

[Parliaments](#)

European Parliament mission visited Pan-African Parliament on 15-16 May 2007 to discuss the EU-Africa development strategy and the role of both parliaments in it. They considered that the presidents of the two parliaments should attend the summit which would take place in Lisbon. Furthermore, side events should be organized to gain visibility during the summit. This event appeared as a very good opportunity to strengthen cooperation. The two parliaments were working in parallel given that both were drafting reports on the same subject which would be presented before the summit and which would help to identify areas in common and other items on which positions differed.

[EU bows to AU pressure to allow Zimbabwe to attend EU-Africa Summit](#)

According to diplomatic sources, diplomatic pressure from Ghana, which holds the chairmanship of the African Union, and South Africa, the President of which was appointed in March by the Southern African Development Community as facilitator to resolve tensions in Zimbabwe, which eventually forced the European Union to allow President Mugabe to attend may signal a new muscular political posture from Africa when it comes negotiations with its richer counterparts. Thus, last Friday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose country holds the EU presidency, conceded that December's EU-African Union summit would go ahead even if Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe attended.

[The public consultation](#)

What is the state of the debate and to what extent are civil society recommendations reflected in the outline?

Recommendations have been given by civil society in Europe and Africa mainly through two seminars (in Accra, Ghana and in Bad Honnef, Germany) and the Internet consultation. This ECDPM paper summarizes issues raised and provides an analysis of to what extent these have or have not been integrated in the outline approved on 15 May. On the basis of this, suggestions are made of points that could be the basis of the public consultation until the Summit at the end of the year.

[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

2. EU-AU relations in a broader context

[EU to open African Union Delegation in Addis Ababa](#)

In this communication to the Council and the Parliament the European Commission says that the opening of a representation to the African Union in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) should ensure the appropriate degree of Commission presence and support for this organisation. The new representation will be specifically for the African Union, and will be distinct from the Ethiopia Delegation, although there will be many synergies.

[EU-Africa Business Forum](#)

The Second EU-Africa Business Forum, an annual event jointly organised by the African Union (AU) Commission and the European Commission, is to take place 21-22 June in Accra, Ghana. The Forum will examine progress on the recommendations at the first meeting with a view to addressing bottlenecks towards the enhancement of business development in Africa.

[Africa and the Millenium Development Goals 2007 Update](#)

This report by the UN tells that at the midway point between their adoption in 2000 and the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, sub-Saharan Africa is not on track to achieve any of the Goals. Although there have been major gains in several areas and the Goals remain achievable in most African nations, even the best governed countries on the continent have not been able to make sufficient progress in reducing extreme poverty in its many forms.

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

1. African Union

Institutional future of the AU

The 9th African Union Summit will be devoted to a "Grand Debate on the Union Government" and takes place in Accra, Ghana, 25 June – 3 July 2007. This discussion follows from the Assembly meeting of July 2005 in Sirte, where it was affirmed that the ultimate goal of the African Union is full political and economic integration leading to the United States of Africa. In November 2006, the Executive Council concluded, "All member states accept the United States of Africa as a common and desirable goal".

[9th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union](#)

The draft agendas for the Permanent Representatives Committee, held on 25 – 26 June, the Executive Council, to be held on the 28 - 29 June and the Assembly of the African Union, held on the 1-3 of July, are all available on the summit website.

Pre-Summit Civil Society Forum

A pre-Summit Civil Society Forum was held in Accra, Ghana, on 19-21 June. It included a discussion on the way forward on the Joint EU-Africa Strategy as well as on the African Union government. It was organised by the African Union Commission. Draft programme:

http://www.pambazuka.org/aumonitor/images/uploads/Presummit_2007_program.doc

Continental Civil Society Conference

The Continental Civil Society Conference on the Proposed African Union Government, organized by the Ghanaian Civil Society AU Coalition, was held in Accra Ghana, June 22-23rd, 2007. 100 civil society organizations from 50 countries across Africa participated in this conference entitled "Accelerating Africa's Integration and Development in the 21st Century: Prospects and Challenges of Union Government". The intent of this conference was for civil society organizations (CSO's) to convene and develop a harmonized approach to ensuring that the citizens of Africa are included in the formation of a unified African government.

Please visit the [Summit Calendar](#) for further civil society and AU meetings and events during the June 2007 African Union Summit.

Special issue of Pambazuka News on United States of Africa

AU-Monitor offers its readers daily updates from the summit, a special issue of Pambazuka News "The United States of Africa: African Perspectives" as well as key documents, information and news. Please check the site regularly at www.aumonitor.org

The Pan African Parliament

Building Effective Mechanisms For Civil Society Engagement

A Pan African Parliament (PAP) and African Civil Society Organizations (CSO) consultative dialogue was held on 7-8 May in Midrand, South Africa. The discussed issues included, the rules of procedures relating to CSO engagement with PAP and a way forward for CSOs to have a more structured approach to engagement with Pan African Institutions.

Report:

<http://www.pan-africanparliament.org/Documents/WORKSHOPREPORT%20PAP%20CSO%20DialogueMay07-082007.pdf>

2. Africa in a broader context

Proposed international conference on South-South cooperation

Dramatically explosive growth in trade and investments among the world's developing nations has prompted a call to strengthen the growing economic trend at a proposed international conference on South-South cooperation. Chairman of the Group of 77 developing countries has made a proposal for a high-level UN conference in 2008. A final decision on the proposed conference is in the hands of the 192-member General Assembly.

African Central Bank

The establishment on an African Central Bank is underway, according to a statement by the commissioner of Economic Affairs, Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba. It should open in 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria. He also mentioned plans to set up that the African

Monetary Fund and the African Investment Bank in two years, in Yaoundé, Cameroun and Tripoli, Libya, respectively.
(In French)

[World Economic Forum on Africa 2007](#)

The World Economic Forum on Africa was held in Cape Town 13-15 June. It included discussions on: Africa and Asia partnership; African urbanization; climate change; delivering on education through technology; infrastructure; powering Africa. At the closing session South African President Thabo Mbeki invited the business sector to engage governments in a frank discussion about the issues and challenges they face. "It is important to know what you as investors are concerned about," the president said.

[African and Chinese CSOs discuss China in Africa](#)

Heads of State, foreign ministers and central bank governors from seventy seven African nations met in Shanghai, China, 16-17 May, for the African Development Bank's (AfDB) annual meetings. The location of the meetings was pertinently and historically chosen in light of growing Sino-African relations, which, at the governmental level, have reached soaring heights and dimensions. Yet to be foreseen, however, are the implications for the people of Africa and China. It is to this uncertainty that a discussion was held on the peripheries of the AfDB fanfare between African and Chinese non-governmental actors in a meeting convened by China Development Brief, Fahamu, Focus on the Global South and the Transnational Institute.

3. African Regional Economic Communities

[Rwanda Pulls Out of ECCAS and stops attempt to join SADC](#)

Rwanda has withdrawn its membership from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and stopped its attempt to join the Southern African Development Community (SADC) following consultations made by a regional community taskforce. This withdrawal is an attempt to reduce Rwanda's integration engagements to fewer regional blocs as overlapping membership in many regional economic communities is a major concern for regional integration efforts.

Common market for Eastern and Southern Africa - COMESA

[COMESA Summit](#)

The 12th Summit of the COMESA Authority of Heads of State and Government was held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 22nd and 23rd May 2007 under the theme: "Deepening Regional Integration for Diversification and Value Addition".

East African Community - EAC

[EAC Summit](#)

Fifth Extraordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State was held in Kampala on 18th June 2007. Burundi and Rwanda were welcomed as new members.

[EAC policy and programmes to target job and employment creation](#)

The Secretary General of the East African Community, Ambassador Juma Mwapachu has said the EAC policy and programme during the 3rd EAC Development

Strategy (2006-2010) that was launched last November would target jobs and employment creation in the East African region.

Southern African Development Community – SADC

[‘SADC Business Day 2007’ in Brussels](#)

The event will take place on July the 6th at the ACP House in Brussels and is organised by SADC Ambassadors to review and ascertain the progress made by SADC on the topics of trade facilitation and investment expansion. The objective of this new conference, which will incorporate representatives of the private sector from SADC and the EU, is to review and ascertain the progress made by SADC on the topics of trade facilitation and investment expansion in the last two years, since the previous similar meeting held in September 2005.

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

1. EU Development cooperation policy and instruments

EU development and external policy

[Evaluation Study on The EU Institutions & Member States’ Mechanisms for Promoting Policy Coherence for Development](#)

This evaluation is one out of the six focusing on the “3Cs” (Coordination, Coherence, Complementarity) that the Heads of European Union Member States’ and the European Commission’s evaluation services launched in 2005. It reports on intra-governmental mechanisms that promote policy coherence for development (PCD) in the European Member States and Institutions. Among its main conclusions, the Study proposed that we are witnessing a new phase in the promotion of PCD that could be characterised as largely experimental. It is still unclear how politically committed EU governments and institutions really are to PCD.

[NGOs critical on EC Policy Coherence for Development Questionnaire](#)

The European Commission has recently started to prepare its first Biennial PCD Report. The Report will be based on data and examples provided by the Member States, which will be collected through an especially designed PCD Questionnaire. The questions asked in the questionnaire are addressed to the Member States, to the Council and to the Commission itself.

[Annual Report 2007 on the European Community’s Development Policy and the Implementation of External Assistance in 2006](#)

EC Communication: “2006 saw major changes in the way the EU manages its relations with the rest of the world. First, by ensuring that policies which affect developing countries can support the objectives of development; second, by adopting regional strategies that reflect its main priorities; third, by simplifying the range of instruments that provide the legal basis for external assistance; fourth, by implementing measures to work more closely with partner countries and other development actors so that aid becomes more effective; and last, by improving the ways in which results are measured and lessons learnt.”

[NGOs call on EU to keep ODA promises](#)

Alison Marshall, Advocacy Manager at BOND, said: "Europe is so important in the worldwide battle against global poverty. EU countries currently provide 52% of all development aid. Europe is also the world's largest trade block, so is pivotal to efforts to make trade fair and just for developing countries." In 2005, European and G8 governments pledged to increase aid dramatically, particularly to Africa, and 80% of this new aid was to come from the EU. Yet overall aid increases have been very slow, and aid volumes to Africa have been static since 2004.

European Development Fund

[EDF 10: State of play of ratification processes](#)

Only four EU Member States have ratified both the revised Cotonou Agreement and the EDF10 Internal Agreement so far. As many as 8 Member States plan to have the parliamentary approval process completed in Autumn 2007. Risks of slippage of the national ratification processes after the November 2007 deadline are therefore high.

[9th EDF reallocation to regional cooperation and integration](#)

ACP-EC Council decision Decision No 1/2007 of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers of 25 May 2007 on reassigning part of the reserve of the 9th European Development Fund (EDF) envelope for long-term development to the allocation for intra-ACP cooperation

in the 9th EDF envelope for regional cooperation and integration

Other relevant information

[Towards an EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid](#)

At the June General Affairs and External Relations Council, the Council highlighted the importance of discussing Humanitarian Aid within the competent bodies of the Council and encouraged all parties to pursue the work with a view to reach an agreement on an EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid as soon as possible.

[Reassessing the European Neighbourhood Policy](#)

This Issue Paper by the European Policy Centre (EPC) aims to contribute to the broader debate on the Union's external policies. It focuses on two aspects of the issue, both of which go well beyond the specific scope of the existing ENP. The first essay deals with the external impact of the EU on the development of human rights and democracy in neighbouring countries: from the inside out. The second essay, by contrast, reviews the potential impact of the wider 'neighbourhood' on the EU itself in terms of broad issues of security: that is, from the outside in. Finally, the Annex provides basic reference data on the neighbours and their current relationships with the Union.

[OECD Review of Danish Development Co-operation Programme](#)

Denmark, one of the world's most generous donors, devoted USD 2.11 billion to official development assistance (ODA) in 2005, accounting for 0.81% of its gross national income (GNI). The OECD commends Denmark's decision to maintain ODA at a minimum of 0.8% of GNI, and encourages it to continue this policy. The OECD's Development Assistance Committee's Review of Denmark's aid noted its decentralised, and improved, development co-operation system, which facilitates effective aid delivery. The Review suggests that Denmark share its approaches to gender equity and environmental sustainability within the aid programme, and policy guidance for the development of capacity in partner countries. It also provides

several recommendations to assist Denmark's continuing efforts in meeting the commitments of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness.

2. EU External Aid in Perspective

G8

Heads of state and government from the Group of 8 (G8) leading industrialized nations met in Germany, which holds the current G8 presidency on 6-8 June 2007. See the official [website](#).

[G8 Summit Declaration:](#)

'Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy'

[African Monitor Response to the G8 Summit Declaration](#)

In this article, Archbishop Njongo Ndungane comments on the G8 consequences for Africa.

[AfricaVox 2007: African voices at the G8](#)

This blog is written by a team of African journalists from Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique and South Africa who were present in Germany to report from the G8 Summit.

['The rich world can help Africa'](#)

In this article Glenn Denning and Jeffrey Sachs argue that the G8 would most benefit the poor in Africa by first looking at what Africa is doing for itself.

[Oxfam: 'G8 miss mark as 'new' announcements disguise overall failure'](#)

According to Oxfam, the headlines sound impressive but ultimately mean precious little. Instead of delivering what they promised the G8 has tried to get the biggest possible headline number out of the smallest possible aid increase. The \$60bn for HIV/AIDS, health, TB and malaria represents, at most, an extra \$3bn of aid in 2010. This is welcome but falls \$27bn short of what the G8 pledged in 2005. On Official Development Assistance, Oxfam's calculations, based on the assumption that the money will be delivered over 5 years, show that by 2010 overall aid will only have increased by \$23bn, as opposed to the \$50bn promised in Gleneagles in 2005.

EU institutional change

At the EU Summit, 21-22 June in Brussels, EU heads of state and government agreed on a reform of the European treaties, putting an end to two years of uncertainty over the Union's treaty reform process. An intergovernmental conference will now draw up the new treaty in detail

[Council website](#)

Reforms include that the EU will in future have a full-time Council President, who will chair the European Council for two and a half years. An office of High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will be created, backed by an external action service. National competences are to be strengthened: national parliaments will now have eight weeks in which to raise objections against draft legislative acts, should they feel that these infringe national competence. The number of Commissioners is to be reduced: from 27 to 15, by 2014.

Related news article

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6232540.stm>

BBC explains the main points of the treaty.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6232834.stm>

[EPC debate: 'Will the EU ever have a common foreign policy?'](#)

A genuine EU Common Foreign and Security Policy remains a long way off, although implementation of the Constitutional Treaty provisions for an EU Foreign Minister and European External Action Service would make a significant difference, speakers told an EPC Policy Dialogue. Some felt the EU could have a real CFSP within two decades, while others thought a more flexible approach, with different groups of Member States working together on different issues, was a more likely outcome.

Others

[Dialogue between European civil society organisations and the European Commission is getting on track](#)

Following on from the March meeting between different European civil society actors and Development Commissioner Louis Michel, a first working meeting was held on 4 May to discuss the set-up of a regular Commission-civil society dialogue group on development issues. The involvement of Southern civil society in dialogue with Delegations will also be addressed.

[World Bank says donors falling behind on ODA promises, but Africa pushing improved governance for investment](#)

Two years after pledging a doubling of aid for Africa and new opportunities for African exports, donor nations are falling behind in fulfilling their promises. Despite the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, resulting in pledges to increase Africa's development aid to \$50 billion by 2010, foreign assistance for development programs in many African countries remains essentially flat. Meanwhile, the faltering trade talks under the World Trade Organization's Doha Round have been another disappointment. African countries are increasingly taking the lead in pushing improved governance, and in many cases have established significantly more attractive environments for investment.

[Portuguese EU Presidency](#)

From 1 July Portugal will take over the EU presidency after Germany.

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

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V - Peace and Security

Meeting between UN Security Council and AU Peace and Security Council

A delegation of the United Nations Security Council, co-chaired by the British and South African Ambassadors to the UN, paid a working visit on Saturday 16 June 2007, to the headquarters of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to meet with the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC). The visit provided an opportunity to exchange views on how best to strengthen the cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations.

Joint communiqué

http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/2007/june/PSC/16/joint_un_au_communique_16_June_2007.doc

Press statement by the AU PSC prior to the meeting

<http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/2007/june/PSC/9/PressStatementUN.doc>

[Sudan accepts joint Darfur force](#)

Sudan has agreed to a revised plan for a joint UN-African Union (AU) peacekeeping force to be sent to war-torn Darfur, AU sources say.

[The EU's development policies are still out of step with its security role](#)

The European Union is by far the world's largest provider of development aid, but João Gomes Cravinho, Portugal's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, questions whether there is sufficient coherence between its development and security policies. He suggests a more consistent approach

[European conference: 'Partners in Conflict. Prevention and Crisis Management: EU and NGO Cooperation'](#)

On 20-21 June some 150 leading representatives from NGOs and the EU met to discuss their cooperation. Beyond doubt NGOs play an important role both in conflict prevention and crisis management. As a consequence the improvement of cooperation between state and non-state actors in tackling the problems of weak and failing states or countries emerging from conflict should be given high priority.

[EU and UN step up cooperation on international crisis management](#)

Deeper UN-EU cooperation in crisis management has led to intensified cooperation in Africa, says the Joint statement on UN-EU cooperation in Crisis Management. Against this background and building on the achievements of the 2003 Joint UN-EU declaration, the Secretary General of the United Nations and the European Union seek to further enhance mutual cooperation and coordination through several measures, including consideration of further steps to enhance cooperation in areas including, but not limited to support to African peacekeeping capacity-building.

[Capacity Development in Fragile States](#)

As part of the ECDPM study Capacity, Change and Performance, Derick Brinkerhoff has produced a paper entitled Capacity Development in Fragile States. This paper clarifies key concepts, reviews selected experience, and addresses several of the issues and dilemmas that members of the international community confront in dealing with capacity and capacity development (CD) in fragile states. Assessment frameworks are provided to enable actors to begin to address some of these issues.

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VI – Governance, Democracy and Human Rights

1. Governance in Africa

[AU condemns elections in Anjouan](#)

The African Union has strongly condemned authorities on the island of Anjouan in the Comoros for holding an election in defiance of both the archipelago's federal government and the AU. The elections were due to have been postponed to June 17,

for security and equity reasons. Mohamed Bacar however decided to organise the elections on June 10, which gave him a second mandate.

[Presidents Bongo, Nguesso face Paris investigations](#)

Following complaints lodged by right groups, French authorities have instituted a preliminary inquiry against Presidents of Gabon and Congo Brazzaville who are accused of embezzling their public funds to acquire properties in France. Presidents Omar Bongo and Denis Sassou Nguesso have been scolded by rights group for illegally siphoning millions of the tax payers' money to buy magnificent edifice in France.

[Sierra Leone: Guilty verdicts in the trial of the AFRC accused](#)

Three former leaders of Sierra Leone's former Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) have each been found guilty on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

[Gender violence outlawed in Sierra Leone](#)

Sierra Leonean women can now snore well in their sleep, after bearing the fruits of their long walk to freedom. The country's parliament took the bull by the horns to enact a law that outlaws domestic violence in all its forms as well as guarantees the rights of women to inheritance and registration of customary marriages. Human rights groups hailed the parliament's move as "an important step forward in improving the status of women, particularly those in the rural areas."

[Ethiopia - Democracy still in jail](#)

Two years on, the winners of the 2005 Ethiopian elections remain in prison. Mammo Muchie challenges the international community to stop using double standards, and demands that it privileges and prioritises values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law over narrow national interests.

Critics against elections for the upper chamber of the Egyptian Parliament (11 and 18 June 2007)

Many voices were concerned about the elections for the Shura Council. These were the first elections since the constitutional amendments granting the upper chamber of the Egyptian Parliament greater powers entered into force. The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) reported that violations and transgressions which marked the first round continued. The Presidency of the European Union takes note of the low turnout at these elections. It regrets that there were reportedly widespread irregularities and acts of violence. The Presidency of the European Union encourages the Egyptian authorities to investigate these occurrences thoroughly and to ensure that future elections are fair and democratic.

<http://www.eohr.org/press/2007/pr0618.shtml>

http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=9340432

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP_Statements/June/0622ShuraRat.html?

[South Africa and Algeria Prepare to Hand-Over APRM Reports](#)

South Africa and Algeria are preparing to hand their African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) reports to the APRM Forum of Heads of State during the African Union summit which is currently underway in Ghana. South Africa will hand over its report on Sunday 1 July, after Algeria hands over its report on Saturday.

2. Governance in EU-Africa relations

[13th session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly \(23-28 June, Germany\)](#)

Following the official opening on June 25, European and ACP Parliamentarians will come together to consider the reports drawn up by the Standing Committees on: Good governance, transparency and accountability in relation with the exploitation of natural resources in ACP countries (co-rapporteurs: Michael Gahler (Germany) and Evelyne B. Cheron (Haiti)).

[EC multi-annual strategy for supporting non-state actors and local authorities in development](#)

A revised version of the multi-annual strategy for the thematic programme on Non-state actors (NSA) and local authorities (LA) was subject to a written approval procedure by the Member States Committee responsible for the DCI instrument. The procedure is now closed and the revised strategy has been adopted. It contains a number of features that will represent an important change in the way the EC will co-finance EU NGOs and civil society activities in general. A CIDSE article analyses it.

[Incentive approach of the European Commission towards supporting governance in Africa](#)

In August last year, the EC issued a communication entitled "Governance in the European Consensus on Development - Towards a harmonised approach within the European Union". This communication proposed a governance initiative of 2.7 billion euros. In a nutshell, additional funding could be made available to ACP countries depending on the extent to which they are committed to engage in a series of reforms. One tool that would be used for determining the amounts of this additional tranche would be governance profiles. Guidelines explaining the way EC additional aid will be allocated are still being prepared by the Commission. They should soon be made available to the public, after the EDF Committee will have given its opinion on it. For more information, see Editorial of the EU-Africa e-alert issue 2 at:

[Addressing corruption in fragile states: What role for donors](#)

Fragile states pose different challenges for addressing corruption than normal development contexts. Development partners therefore struggle to find effective strategies for addressing corruption. Recent experience shows that neglecting the corruption problem from the outset is a dangerous strategy, as corrupt elites use the interlude to entrench themselves in politics and set up predatory schemes, which makes reform difficult to achieve at a later stage. This report represents an attempt to bridge the divide between the fragile states literature with its broad principles for engagement, and the recent international experience and research on corruption.

3. Further reading

[South Africa: Civil Society organisations influence the state](#)

How has South Africa's Civil Society fared? This paper by the Centre for Policy Studies examines how specific civil society organisations (CSOs) have influenced state, and what lies behind the success or failure of these actions. It focuses on CSOs engaged in influencing post-apartheid policies.

[AfriMAP - Papers on the Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance in Africa](#)

AfriMAP published articles received in response to their call for papers on the Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance in Africa, adopted by heads of state at the AU summit in January 2007. The articles – three in English and one in French— include comparisons with the ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, as well as critical analysis of the

Charter's content and its enforcement measures. AfriMAP has published an article (in English and French) received from Mali on the role of civil society in improving governance.

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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/>

For the ACP-EC Joint Council of Ministers on trade and financial issues held on 25 May in Brussels, please see Focus section first in e-alert, as well as the latest [acp-eu-trade newsletter](#)

[ECDPM Inbrief 18: 'How to Approach the Monitoring of the ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements: An Overview'](#)

The African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states and the European Union (EU) countries have agreed to negotiate new WTO-compatible Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). These agreements should not be an end in themselves, but be first and foremost instruments for development, as provided for by the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. While these new free trade arrangements offer new development opportunities, they also pose considerable challenges for the ACP. To ensure that the development dimension of the EPAs is fulfilled, close monitoring will be of prime importance, of both the negotiation and the implementation of these new partnership agreements. This InBrief presents a preliminary overview of some methodological issues linked to the design of a monitoring mechanism for the EPAs

WTO

[Global trade talks collapsed again](#)

The chance of a global trade deal being clinched before President George W. Bush leaves the White House shrank dramatically with talks between core negotiating partners collapsing again.

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VIII - Migration and development

[Senegal: Spain, Senegal say winning war on illegal migrants](#)

Spain and Senegal said on Friday they were winning the fight against illegal migration as the European nation promised to invest in the West African state and create more legal job opportunities for Senegalese workers. The Spanish interior and labour ministers, Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba and Jesus Caldera, announced during a

visit to Dakar that several hundred legal jobs in Spain would be opened up this year for workers from Senegal, to encourage lawful migration.

Tanzania: Government vows to send all Burundian refugees home

With the return of peace and stability in Burundi, the Tanzanian President, Jakaya Kikwete, sees no reason why thousands of Burundian refugees should remain in his country. President Kikwete, who flew to the Burundian capital Bujumbura, disclosed that all Burundian refugee camps will be closed by December 2007. Human Rights Watch said that expulsion of persons of Rwandan and Burundian origin from Tanzania in recent months resulted in some expelled persons which were threatened, beaten, and saw their property looted by Tanzanian officials, soldiers, and police officers or by militia groups acting with the apparent compliance of government officials.

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/25842>

<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/05/07/tanzan15864.htm>

13th session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (23-28 June, Germany)

Following the official opening on June 25, European and ACP Parliamentarians will come together to consider the reports drawn up by the Standing Committees on: Migration of Skilled Workers and its Effect on National Development (Sharon Hay Webster (Jamaica) and Luisa Morgantini (Italy).

Communication from the Commission on circular migration and mobility partnerships between the European Union and third countries

(Brussels, 23 May 2007)

Based on the existing policy and cooperation framework, this communication seeks to identify novel approaches to improve the management of legal movements of people between the EU and third countries ready to make significant efforts to fight illegal migration. In addition, it looks at ways to facilitate circular migration, which will help EU Member States address their labour needs while exploiting potential positive impacts of migration on development and responding to the needs of countries of origin in terms of skill transfers and of mitigating the impact of brain drain.

'Human Tide: the Real Migration Crisis'

A Christian Aid report, May 2007

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IX – An actor in EU-Africa relations: African Industrial Association

Interview with David Thual, Adviser to the President of the African Industrial Association (AIA)

Created in July 2004, the AIA is a grouping of African industries, some of which are 100% Africans, others being joint ventures with foreign investors or branches of international corporations based in Africa. It aims at defending the interests of the African industrial sector in the multilateral trade decision making process and to encourage a business environment favourable to the strengthening of the Africa industry. The AIA is more particularly present in French speaking sub-Saharan Africa although it intends to further expand in the other parts of Africa.

In that framework, David Thual recognizes that platforms such as the EU-Africa business forum that was held in Accra last week, can be a useful tool but remains skeptical on the actual results of this forum so far and the usefulness of such a dialogue at a pan-African level, fearing that the countries in which the private sector is the most dynamic overrule the discussion without allowing enough opportunities for the others. Shouldn't this kind of dialogue rather be held at a sub-regional level in line with the EPA negotiations?

On the EPAs, the AIA has recently published a paper presenting its position. According to AIA, the removal of non reciprocal trade preferences for ACP countries is not acceptable given the very high production costs in Africa, the difficult business environment and the current lack of regional integration. The negotiations as they stand might prevent African industries from developing properly. Priority should be granted to improving the business environment in Africa as well as the reduction of supply side constraints.

For more information, please look at the website: www.africanindustrial.org

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