

Trade & regional integration

Comments received between 1 February and 26 June, 2007.

Comments could be made both the English and French versions of the website. The comments made on the French website follow on page 9.

1. Andrew Allimadi (Ethiopia) - February 7, 2007

If there is one policy alone that is responsible for Africa's high levels of poverty, it is the common agricultural policy (CAP) in the EU (and other farm support mechanisms in Japan, the US and Australia). However, the EU remains Africa's largest trading partner. At a stroke of removing CAP, and granting African countries special and differential treatment in accessing EU markets, policy makers can "make poverty history" and reduce illegal migration that is wrecking both Africa and Europe.

2. Adolfo Sansolini - RSPCA, WSPA, CIWF, Eurogroup for Animals - February 16, 2007

I am writing on behalf of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), Compassion In World Farming (CIWF) and Eurogroup for Animals.

Our document focuses on the need to integrate animal welfare considerations and provisions in the Strategy, and summarises its implications in terms of public health, job opportunities, preservation of traditional systems, market impact and alleviation of poverty in the African countries.

An increasing number of people, both in the European Union and in the African Union, value their relationship with the animals who surround them. Many countries in the world have translated ethical considerations into specific laws aimed to protect animals from cruelty, or to regulate farming and slaughter practices in order to minimise suffering.

Whether we look at domestic animals, animals used for production (e.g. farm animals) or wildlife, there is now a broader and still growing recognition that the way we treat animals has a direct impact on human welfare, too.

Animal health has been widely recognised as a key factor for the protection of human health: the work of the OIE and the WTO SPS Agreement represent two relevant examples of what has been established at the global level to tackle this issue. The outbreaks of animal diseases, often linked to farming practices which do not take into consideration the basic needs of the animals, now constitute a constant threat to human health worldwide.

In recent years, the OIE has started to develop animal welfare standards, and the European Union has decided to include animal welfare provisions in the SPS section of its Free Trade Agreements, starting from the EU-Chile Agreement. This is because a clear link has been recognised between animal health and welfare.

In terms of job opportunities, traditional extensive farming systems require more workforce than the intensive ones. The extensive systems are therefore linked not only to

higher standards of animal welfare, but also to a broader distribution of income among the population whose survival depends on agricultural activities.

Extensive farming can imply higher costs of production, although the the lower incidence of diseases and the fall of the mortality rate partially compensate them. Specific training programmes and subsidies addressed at the consolidation of the traditional extensive farming systems can absorb the possibly remaining higher costs and create broader market opportunities for the local farmers.

Support to traditional extensive farming systems would preserve a positive aspect of local cultures and could be integrated in a broader frame of initiatives to protect the identity of peoples threatened by natural adversities or external commercial challenges.

The increasing demand for animal products obtained in higher-welfare systems, especially – but not only – in developed economies, creates interesting trade opportunities for the extensive productions. A premium is often paid on the market for higher welfare products.

Among the African Union countries, Namibia is a positive case to mention in this respect. The creation of animal welfare standards for beef opened new market opportunities with the European Union. More recently, Namibia has also introduced stricter rules on the transport of live animals, implementing more stringent animal welfare criteria. All these provisions, rather than creating additional burdens to the local farmers, represented a plus on the market and therefore produced additional income.

The consideration of animal welfare offers a consistent approach and a powerful mean both to extend solidarity and to increase farmers income in developing countries.

Provisions to support the preservation and/or development of farming activities adopting high animal welfare standards in Africa are therefore in our opinion a valuable way to promote economical growth and ethical principals at the same time.

This could be also facilitated by differential, more favourable tariffs for the import into the EU of animal products obtained according to animal welfare standards.

Additional provisions to increase animal health and welfare in Africa would both be consistent with the objectives of the Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010 defined by the Commission, and with a sensible approach to Development, where a longer-term and more comprehensive vision can help create permanent solutions to problems still faced by a large part of the world population.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you are interested to receive more detailed information about the issues we have summarised in this document.

Best regards,

Adolfo Sansolini
Trade Policy Advisor
RSPCA, WSPA, CIWF, Eurogroup for Animals

[3.](#) National Council of SPCAs (South Africa) - February 16, 2007

16 February 2007

INPUT FOR THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS ON A JOINT EU-AFRICA STRATEGY

The National Council of SPCAs, South Africa, accentuates the importance of including animal welfare as a pertinent issue to be incorporated as part of the EU-Africa Strategy.

In recent years animal welfare has mostly been put forward as a concern by the European Union (EU), the development of animal welfare standards has certainly accentuated there stance thereon. Similarly, this concern is shared increasingly by many people in South Africa, including our 92 member Societies and their constituent membership, and throughout the world.

In South Africa in particular we are encountering an increased demand for animal products acquired from higher animal welfare systems. There is a definite demand for higher welfare standards and systems to be implemented. The public are not only supportive of such initiatives but are also willing to pay premium prices as they have a genuine concern about animal welfare. They have also seen the correlation between good animal welfare and the importance of feeding people, the trade and for the future.

There is strong business rationale for encouraging good standards of animal welfare. There are real trade opportunities in EU markets for products from developing countries that are sustainably produced to good animal welfare standards. Indeed, such standards could give South Africa significant advantage over our competitors in export markets.

A primary example in Africa is the Namibian beef industry's quality assurance scheme, with its good welfare standards; it has a competitive advantage in accessing the EU market. Namibia also finds that meeting EU welfare standards facilitates access to other markets. The Namibian scheme has brought significant benefits to rural communities where farmers now have a predictable trade on which to build their livelihoods. The formation of this scheme in Namibia has most certainly not only produced access to the international trade but has uplifted and empowered the people, and could likewise in South Africa if implemented.

It is often assumed that welfare requirements of developed countries will be difficult for developing country farmers to meet. We do not believe this to be the case. Extensive and sustainable agriculture, with good standards of animal welfare, is still an important form of livestock production in much of South Africa. Products from such systems would readily meet EU animal welfare requirements.

However, where welfare standards need to be strengthened, South Africa could ask for assistance, and the EU should provide, trade-related assistance and capacity building to help develop good welfare standards on-farm, during transport and at slaughter. This assistance could include the sharing of knowledge, training and technology transfer. The aim should be to work with local farmers and agricultural scientists to develop and then validate systems that are appropriate for local conditions. Provision would also be required for more favourable tariffs for welfare-friendly products to EU markets.

Should you have any queries or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

CELESTE HOUSEMAN
Manager
GLOBAL CAMPAIGNS
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs

4. James Maringwa - February 27, 2007

EU-AFRICA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - CASE FOR TRADE LIBERALIZATION

Issues of significance in promoting development in Africa through this initiative demands that:

1) Africans are able to define their own priorities in consultation with their constituencies, information which will be used to develop an Afro-centric or Afro-Driven and “Owned” Development Agenda. This would basically require that the EU Redefines what “development” means in the African context rather than championing the case for example “Aid”. What we do not have to forget is that the orthodox development path/paradigm that Africa has taken this far has been strung to the development priorities of the EU (Our former colonial masters) where ownership of such programs would be highly skewed towards sources of aid packages, development assistance, food handouts, emergency deliveries etc.

2) Africa’s development path cannot suddenly take a projected growth through services trade because current research points to developing countries benefiting out of services liberalization. What is critical is that Africa, which derives its livelihood from Agriculture, sets its development tone and path around its base (Agriculture) and other primary products. When the foundation is there, industries building up and investments burgeoning, then Africa would eventually move up the value chain, enhancing its capacity to produce more of value added products and eventually liberalizing portion of its services industry. Whilst concrete evidence lays bare every bit of fact that Africa has had a very bad experience with trade liberalization through Structural Adjustment Programs because of structural rigidities and prioritization of efforts amongs a host of reasons, why would the EU want to push for a development agenda for Africa that further liberalizes its service industries when facts on the ground do not support the intuitions of services liberalization?

3) Protection of African industries from foreign competition especially the EU and other developing and developed countries through liberalization in the EPA Effort, should not only be through local initiatives like barricading sensitive and special products etc! Protection should also be seen in the respect of such developed countries like the EU shedding off their massive subsidy supports for their exports and for local production. So when the EU removes its massively huge agricultural and trade distorting subsidies that implicitly “protects” poor African farmers and families whose only source of livelihood in the impoverished continent is not services driven but Agriculturally premised!

Submitted by James Maringwa
Trade Policy Analyst with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat under the Commonwealth Secretariat “Hub & Spokes” Project: Building the Capacity of ACP Countries in Trade Policy Formulation, Negotiations and Implementation”.

5. Bernard Ancel, International trade consultant - February 28, 2007

about EPAs: several important issues have to be considered:

- how can most LDCs ensure reciprocity in trade conditions as their main sources of revenues remain in many cases customs duties: a long transition period should be granted to enable them to perform fiscal reforms and to strengthen their economy!

- as the EU tends to negotiate with regional groupings, there is a high risk that the interests and priorities of smaller countries (e.g. Comoros, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea...) are not sufficiently taken into consideration while regional leaders are leading negotiations ...

A special programme should be launched in parallel with EPAs to meet development needs of LDCs!



[6. ecdpm](#) - February 28, 2007

On the [French page](#), **Joel Babanguidila (Republic of the Congo, 9/2)** mentions the following conditions for EU-AU partnership: African integration should take place on the continental and regional levels; the unity of Africa should be promoted; the AU should strive for the abolition of trade barriers within Africa; trade should be based on an equal footing; the EU should not allow a single Member State to influence the new partnership; an evaluation commission should assess the results of the new partnership after one year; both Unions will have to aim for support by the peoples of Africa.

[Read the full comment in French](#)

[7. Davina Makhan \(ECDPM\)](#) - March 7, 2007

To stimulate the debate further on the impact of CAP policies on Africa (see comments posted by [Andrew Allimadi on 7/2/2007](#) and [James Maringwa on 27/2/2007](#)), I would draw readers' attention and invite responses to the following article: **"It's not the CAP that's hurting the developing countries"**, by Andreas Schneider in the Spring 2007 issue of Europe's World.

The EU's Common Agricultural Policy is widely reviled for damaging the livelihoods of the world's poorest farmers. But Andreas Schneider of the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels argues that the developing countries' problems stem from structural weaknesses and internal policy shortcomings, and that these should be the targets of reform.

[Read full article.](#)

Putting this in the context of the current consultation, **how could the CAP issue be best addressed in the joint EU-Africa Strategy?**

[8. Davina Makhan \(ECDPM\)](#) - March 7, 2007

End of January, African diplomats accredited to the African Union (AU) brainstormed ways of harmonising taxation and other customs procedures to remove impediments to trade within the continent.

The two-day meeting of the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC), chaired by the Congo-Brazzaville's ambassador to the AU, Raymond Serge Bale, considered ways of harmonising customs procedures at AU member states' export, import and transit zones.

See *BusinessinAfrica online* article (23 January 2007): [‘Complex intra-bloc rules hurting African trade’](#)

Should such initiatives fall under the scope of a joint EU-Africa Strategy? If so, how can they best be supported?



9. [ecdpm](#) - March 8, 2007

German and African civil society organisations are through their manifesto [“Prospects for Africa - Europe’s Policies”](#) calling for poverty-oriented development policy. The manifesto was written specifically to influence the German Federal Government, in their role as EU Presidency, but is also of relevance in the drafting of a joint EU-Africa strategy.

On the issue of trade and regional integration the manifesto calls for “Trade justice: Giving precedence to development in regional trade agreements”

This specifically entails (see page 5 of the manifesto):

1. Integrating safeguard mechanisms into the EPAs and other trade agreements

In order to respond to the development needs of developing countries, especially the ACP countries, to protect small farmers, local markets and infant industries as well as to create jobs and promote rural development, the EPAs and other trade agreements ought to provide integrated safeguard mechanisms. The governments of these countries should be provided with the necessary policy space to pursue their own development strategies.

2. Granting the developing countries preferential treatment

The EU should table a proposal at the WTO for reviewing the provisions on free trade agreements (Art. XXIV of GATT 1994) so as to allow non-reciprocal and asymmetrical relations within agreements with developing countries.

3. Omitting the Singapore issues

The EU should refrain from the inclusion of agreements in the areas of investment, competition policy, government procurement, liberalisation of trade in services and trade-related aspects of intellectual property as these would undermine local markets and increase monopolistic market power of multinational corporations.

4. Extending the timeframe for the EPA negotiations

- that comprehensive consultations with the civil society organisations and groups that may be adversely affected can take place,
- so that a serious analysis of the results of the review process and its incorporation in the negotiating process is guaranteed.

5. Responding positively to the needs of the ACP countries:

- by giving them enough time (at least 20 years) to deepen their regional integration and adjust their national concepts for political action and legislation to the EPA requirements, by providing additional resources to mitigate the costs of adjustment (“Adjustment Facility”),
- by eliminating all EU export subsidies on agricultural products as an integral part of EPAs,

- by monitoring EPA implementation with a view to achieving the objectives defined at national level.

Read the full manifesto - [pdf](#)

[10.](#) John Sevume - March 20, 2007

Much as African Union has changed its name from former OAU to AU, no difference will be realised. The European Union today started with Benelux countries and later Germany France, etc. joined. These countries have fulfilled certain conditions before joining European Monetary Union and later Monetary currency. Why is that Africa is not adopting such a mechanism like that of our fellow colleagues of Europe? Some criteria should be followed before a country applies for a membership i.e. democracy, economical stability, low inflation rate and positive balance of payments. This also applies to regional integration like the East African Community (EAC). If it was possible to dissolve the entire African Union and reshape it, I will be the first to vote for it.

[11.](#) ROSELYNN MUSA - March 23, 2007

I would like to add my voice to those that have congratulated the AU/ EU on this initiative. We are all very excited to see it set in motion. This historic partnership could not have come at a better time than now that our beloved continent is discussing (and hopefully) working towards continental integration. I am sure we can learn a lesson or two from the experience of the EU. We do not have to do it the same way by adopting every aspect hook, line and sinker, but we have the examining their experience to ascertain what will work for us, where, when and how.

If the AU and the EU in this partnership have the same interest at heart, which in this case is developing Africa, which I am convinced they do, I believe one of the critical issues to tackle as a matter of urgency is the issue of brain drain from Africa to Europe. The fact that European countries have become so magnetic to especially the youth of African, which, of course, constitute the larger percentage of its productive population should be considered. It is evident that no country can attain development without this critical mass. In his thought-provoking presentation at the African Civil Society Consultation in Addis Ababa, March 2007 Dr. Tajudeen Abdulraheem said and I quote "Even though Rome was not built in a day, the Romans were there to build it" No one will build Africa for us, we have to stay and build it ourselves.



[12.](#) [ecdpm](#) - April 3, 2007

European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, [EUROCHAMBERS](#), have submitted a contribution to the public consultation focusing on the following questions:

- What role can non-state actors play in the promotion of governance?
- EU support to African export capacity building
- What best can AU and EU authorities do to promote sustainable investment in Africa
- How best can African and EU trade policies be organised and coordinated so as to effectively promote sustainable development and contribute to poverty eradication?

Particular focus is on the involvement of non-state actors and particularly the private sector in policy making and development practice. The contribution calls for increased cooperation between NGOs and the private sector in shaping policy as well as increased exchange between European and African SMEs. Other issues raised include the importance of local ownership for greater effectiveness.

Download the contribution in full - [pdf](#)



[13. ecdpm](#) - April 4, 2007

Henryka Manes has submitted a comment on the Key Development page which is of relevance to the debate on regional integration. He states:

An overall African policy is not very effective because each African country is different; it can only be a general outline or a vision that will rally stakeholders and stimulate development. It will be relevant once there are quite a few countries with powerful success stories so as to organize them into regional markets to create an economic force and a powerful negotiator. A ripple effect approach could work: starting with countries that have been able to establish some political stability and can be considered as emerging democracies and have some economic development under way.

[Read the comment in full.](#)

[14. Mariana Abrantes de Sousa](#) - April 5, 2007

Regarding trade, it would be important to examine the impact of Chinese exports on Africa. It appears that the inflow of cheap manufactured goods could represent barriers to growth of the local African industrial sector, in a more complex and critical manner than the trade Africa-Europe. The trade relations are more triangular than bilateral, so any trade agreements Europe-Africa could be rendered ineffective depending on trends in trade with the rest of the world.

[15. Greg Ngethe, NCRWCC, Nairobi KENYA](#) - April 9, 2007

Early this year, we saw the giant British Supermarkets TESCO announce plans to begin placing carbon labels on each of its products.

To begin with, TESCO has vowed to place an airplane label on every product that has been flown in.

This is on the mistaken assumption that products that have been flown in have contributed to the highest level of carbon emissions.

This proposal also ignores that there is a great difference between carbon footprints and air miles.

This situation is very disturbing and NCRWCC has written an article on it:

<http://ncrwcc.blogspot.com/2007/04/british-supermarket-tescos-move-to-lock.html>

Sub-saharan Africa exports much of its fresh fruits, vegetables and flowers to the European Union, which contribute to only 0.1% of the total carbon emissions experienced in those countries.

This issue is so sensitive that even the Kyoto Protocol deliberately omitted cutting down on air miles for fresh produce on account of the very large African populations supported by this industry.

The European Union needs to work closer with local Governments and Organisations such as NCRWCC and the Kenya Flower Council, before adopting positions that may spell doom to the livelihoods of numerous people in Sub Saharan Africa.

<http://ncrwcc.blogspot.com>

16. Kehinde Adeloye, Augsburg-Germany - June 24, 2007

We have to first of fight against corruption in Africa in order to make a successful trading business by introducing a proper discipline in Africa

Commerce et intégration régionale

1. [Joel Baganguidila \(Congo-Brazzaville\)](#) - février 9, 2007

Bonjour,

Bravo pour cette initiative de consulter les peuples concernés.

Commerce et intégration:

1-L'intégration africaine doit se faire continentalement et régionalement.

2-Que l'EU-AU promettent l'unité de l'Afrique

3-AU campagne pour l'abilitation de barrières économiques en Afrique.

4-Le commerce entre les les Org.(EU-AU) doit être égalitaire.

5-EU ne doit permettre aucun état membre d'influencer ce nouveau partenariat.

6-Mettre en place un comité de suivi qui évaluera les résultats de ce partenariat après un an.

EU-AU travailleront durement pour avoir le soutien des peuples africains qui sont encore sous le joug des dictatures et pauvreté à ce nouveau partenariat.

L'Europe doit faire preuve de franchise sur ses relations avec les peuples africains en les soutenant dans le choix de leurs dirigeants.

La Chine nous attire tous et l'Africain est considéré soit's a challenge

2. xavier brosse - février 19, 2007

Ingenierie expertise dans l'évolution internationale reste indissociable à la sécurité, la paix et la qualité des sociétés ce qui permet à l' UE et UA d'être organiser et d'appliquer dans l'ensemble des secteurs d'activités les conditions de contrôle de solvabilité de résultats mondial !

Il faut de la part de l'UE et UA continuer la qualité d'activité déjà réalisée avec leurs partenaires et alliés des autres continents mais aussi spécialiser la construction des sociétés suivant leurs spécificités, intérêts comme de favoriser la politique des grands travaux à très long termes structures infrastructures entreprises matériels services qualités d'activités professionnelles, conditions de travail, ... autant pour les structures privées que publiques, qualité de vie ... !

La réalité de protection comme de cohérence de société permet d'apporter les moyens technique et technologique pour l'avolution mondiale indispensable à la sacurité la paix et évidemment à la qualité de résultats !

le développement géographique et de l' Espace doit être une référence et priorité de société moderne et civilisée ! plus que la constructions de nouvelles structures, dans tous les domaines et spcialisés dans l'évolution, hyperstructures, dont spcialisés fondamentales hopitaux cliniques spécialisés, universités écoles supérieures, industries, ... cette orientation essentielle du 21 siècle doit permettre des solutions à l'évolution " Terrestre " Continentales par des programmes spcialisés de haut niveaux modernes et civilisés aussi avec des moyens conséquent de protection administratif judiciaire policier militaire , à la portée du savoir et des compétences universelles, de la sciences, et de la qualité de l'engagement des personnels !

pour ce sujet généraliste : il faut valoriser les programmes d'ingeneirie et d'expertise pour une meilleure évolution de société, promouvoir la politique des grands travaux !

3. DURAND FELICIEN PROSPER - février 25, 2007

Dans le cadre du renforcement futur des liens de coopération entre les communautés économiques, nous voudrions présenter selon notre entendement la situation et la problématique pour proposer une voie de résolution accompagnée de certaines informations pertinentes.

Considérant que la plupart des pays africains sont fortement dépendant du commerce international et des liquidités internationales, il est clair que la prospérité de l'industrie africaine est très liée à la qualité de la politique économique de sa communauté. De ce fait, les relations communauté- industrie doivent être étroites d'une part, et d'autre part, les relations communauté- communauté doivent avoir un dialogue franc.

Aujourd'hui, même le plus grand pays européen forme un marché trop petit pour que soient efficacement utilisées les ressources que réclame la véritable entreprise. On le sait désormais, la mauvaise gouvernance mondiale est l'une des voies qui mène à la pauvreté des populations; Certes, le partenariat secteurs publics secteurs privés est déjà une approche qui ne peut que renforcer la bonne gouvernance.

La gestion moderne et les technologies modernes exigent aussi des marchés vastes et intégrés.

Pour que les communautés comme l'UEMOA, la CEDEAO et l'UE pour ne citer que celles là, s'engagent véritablement et irréversiblement dans la voie du développement, il est impérieux que la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance des cités soient consolidées car tout part de la cité pour retourner à la cité.

En somme, la vérité est que dans la Communauté, dans l'Etat aussi bien que dans l'Entreprise privée, l'inadaptation quantitative et qualitative de l'encadrement constitue sans nul doute la principale cause de la lenteur des progrès et de la fréquence des rechutes.

De quoi a-t-on besoin réellement?

D'Hommes qui ont l'âme et l'esprit d'un véritable entrepreneur ; qui sont novateurs, qui ont la capacité de traduire en action des idées et des découvertes ; qui sont à la fois réceptifs au Changement ; qui sont très disposés à admettre l'ambiguïté et l'incertitude ; qui ont la volonté de prendre des risques.

Par le représentant de World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA)
au Bénin

www.wpsa-benin.new.fr

4. gerardja - mars 1, 2007

Bonjour,

Je vais peut-être encore aujourd'hui paraître iconoclaste ! Je voudrais cependant commencer par poser une question et formuler une réflexion liminaire...

Question préalable

Pourquoi vouloir absolument faire aujourd'hui de l'intégration régionale une priorité du commerce des Etats de l'UA ?

Tant que les règles de l'OMC ne sont pas modifiées - alors même que la plupart des Etats de l'UA y adhèrent -, tant que les coûts de transport internationaux des marchandises ne constituent pas une protection naturelle des productions africaines contre celles qui proviennent des autres continents... pourquoi demander aux Etats-membres de commercer plus, entre-eux ?

Remarque liminaire

Les Etats-membres de l'UA commercent déjà entre-eux. Certes, cela ne représente pas une grande proportion de leurs échanges. Mais ils le font déjà quand, au sein de la chaîne du commerce, producteurs et intervenants y trouvent leur intérêt. Pourquoi ne le font-ils pas plus ? Je crois comprendre que le marché ne s'y prête pas et ce, principalement pour trois raisons simples :

- (i) les produits n'existent pas, ou pas en quantités suffisantes pour qu'une partie puisse être exportée vers les Etats voisins ;
- (ii) les prix sont trop élevés par rapport aux produits venant d'Asie, d'Europe ou des E-U ;
- (iii) de grandes faiblesses existent concernant la garantie de livraisons selon les quantités et qualités convenues et aux dates prévues.

Alors, que faire pour, à terme, lever ces principaux obstacles ?

1) L'absence de produits, ou des produits en quantités permettant l'exportation :

Une difficulté réside certainement dans la politique agricole des pays concernés. Une autre provient des importantes subventions agricoles versées aux producteurs des E-U et d'Europe. Faute de meilleures politiques agricoles dans la partie nord de l'Afrique et faute d'un accord international mettant définitivement fin aux exportations agricoles subventionnées, rien ne pourra être fait. Je suggère que UA et UE s'accordent pour trouver des solutions à ces deux problèmes.

UE et UA pourrait s'accorder pour effectuer de vrais diagnostics sur les réelles raisons qui, pour quelques grands produits qui grèvent fortement les balances des paiements, ont conduit les producteurs locaux à limiter leur production ou celle de produits de remplacement, laissant ainsi toute la place aux mêmes produits venus du bout du monde. Après quoi, UE et UA pourraient s'entendre pour y trouver des remèdes.

UE et UA devraient s'accorder pour encourager l'implantation d'entreprises agro-industrielles privées, modernes, de tailles adaptées aux économies d'échelle vitales pour certaines productions, pour valoriser en Afrique toutes sortes de produits primaires susceptibles d'alimenter le marché intérieur de l'Afrique, mais aussi les marchés éloignés, générateurs de devises.

Elles pourraient ensuite également s'entendre pour la promotion de la consommation en Afrique même de ces produits originaires d'Afrique.

2) Les prix trop élevés par rapports aux produits venant d'Asie, d'Europe ou des E-U :

Trois petits Etats d'Afrique de l'Ouest se sont entendus au siècle dernier pour créer et mettre en commun une cimenterie. Elle a depuis été liquidée, tout simplement parce que le ciment provenant de France ou de Norvège arrivait dans leurs ports à un prix de revient inférieur de moitié au moins à celui de leur propre cimenterie ! La cimenterie était trop petite pour amortir convenablement les coûts fixes. Le marché était également trop petit pour ce type d'investissement. Il eut mieux valu multiplier de petits fours à briques dans toute la région comme le Vietnam continue de la faire pour faciliter la construction des maisons individuelles.

Ma suggestion est sur ce point de regarder attentivement la balance import de l'Afrique (ou de chaque sous-région africaine) et de sélectionner les produits et marchés pour lesquels l'UE et l'UA pourraient, ensemble, rechercher et encourager des investisseurs à s'implanter (y compris d'ailleurs les producteurs à l'étranger actuels) une fois de réels marchés économiques, rentables, identifiés.

Il serait également utile qu'UE et UA mettent en place un Comité intercontinental totalement indépendant pour procéder aux arbitrages nécessaires quant aux choix à faire des productions à promouvoir et aussi... des lieux où les implanter ! Ceci pour éviter les concurrences et jalousies certes, humaines, mais désastreuses entre les Etats, y compris entre ceux qui appartiennent pourtant aux mêmes sous-organisations régionales.

3) Les grandes faiblesses qui existent en matière de **garantie de livraisons** selon les quantités et qualités convenues, aux dates prévues :

Des échanges commerciaux durables ne peuvent se fonder que sur de saines relations basées sur le respect des engagements pris. Faute de quoi, l'importateur revient justement à ses fournisseurs anciens, hors d'Afrique.

C'est toute la question du management. Je note que l'Asie, si peu industrielle il n'y a pas encore si longtemps, se sort progressivement de ce handicap. D'une part en envoyant de nombreux jeunes se frotter aux règles du management en Europe ou en Amérique. Mais aussi en encourageant la présence sur son sol d'entreprises étrangères de consultants qui conseillent les producteurs locaux et établissent des liens de confiance entre ces producteurs et les importateurs étrangers.

Peut-être que ces deux points pourraient être discutés par l'UA et l'UE en vue d'identifier des programmes propres à faciliter la résolution de ces questions primordiales en matière de commerce que constituent des engagements sur des qualités, des quantités et des délais.

Bien à vous.



5. [ecdpm](#) - mars 2, 2007

Sur la page anglaise, **Andrew Allimadi (Éthiopie, 7/2)** exige la suppression de la politique agricole commune (PAC) de l'UE. Cette mesure, ainsi que l'attribution d'un traitement spécial et différentiel aux pays africains en matière d'accès aux marchés européens, les décideurs de politiques peuvent « reléguer la pauvreté à l'histoire » et réduire la migration illégale qui est néfaste pour l'Afrique et pour l'Europe.

[Lire le commentaire complet en anglais](#)

Sur la page anglaise, **James Maringwa (27/2)** met en exergue des questions pertinentes en ce qui concerne la promotion du développement en Afrique :

1) Les Africains sont capables de définir leurs propres priorités en consultation avec leurs bases électorales. L'information ainsi produite servira à formuler un agenda du développement afrocentrique et approprié. En fait, cela suppose que l'UE élabore une nouvelle définition du « développement » dans le contexte africain plutôt que faire l'éloge de « l'aide » par exemple.

2) L'avenue de l'Afrique vers le développement ne peut pas tout d'un coup montrer une croissance importante vers le commerce des services, en raison du fait que des études récentes arrivent à la conclusion que les pays en développement peuvent bénéficier de la libéralisation des services. L'essentiel, c'est que l'Afrique – qui dépend entièrement de l'agriculture – définit les pistes vers l'avenir sur la base de l'agriculture et les autres matières premières.

3) La protection des industries africaines contre la compétition, en particulier de l'UE et d'autres pays en développement et industrialisés, par la libéralisation comprise dans les APE.

[Lire le commentaire complet en anglais](#)