



# EU NEWS

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## EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY

### EU position for Doha FfD conference unsettled by G20 summit on the financial crisis

As the EU works to finalize its common position for the UN conference on Financing for Development in Doha, Qatar at the end of the month, the G20 summit called in the wake of the financial crisis on 15 November in Washington has thrown a wrench in the works.

EU heads of state are meeting in Brussels on 7 November to discuss the EU's positioning at the Washington summit on the future of the international financial architecture. This architecture has an essential impact on the financing for development issues on the agenda in Doha. But the **development perspective is low on the radar screen for the G20 countries** invited to the Washington summit. The current stall in negotiations on the Doha outcome document by the G77 group of developing countries in the UN may be in part be due to these differing interests. And a development perspective is nowhere to be found in the preparatory paper for Friday's EU summit. The Qatari government hopes to re-link the FfD and financial crisis talks through its invitation to world

leaders to meet in Doha just ahead of the FfD conference for a follow-up meeting to the Washington summit.

Against this backdrop, the EU Council of Ministers is moving towards agreement on its position for Doha. On aid, the **question of clear timetables** for Member States to implement their commitments **to provide 0,7% of GNI in ODA** will be left to Development Ministers at the 11 November Council meeting, with certain countries using the current economic context as an excuse to renege on their promises. On innovative sources of finance, some Member States refuse to consider funds raised e.g. through the air ticket levy as additional to their 0,7% ODA commitment, preferring to use these as compensation for declining aid budgets.

The EU position places a strong emphasis on the responsibility of developing countries for mobilizing their own resources for development, giving less attention to ways in which the EU is undermining their ability to do so. Several Member States are **opposed to civil society proposals on taxation**, such as upgrading the UN Tax Committee to an intergovernmental body, which would give it a stronger mandate on issues like **EU tax havens** which allow multinational companies to pay less taxes to developing countries.

The EU is also **resisting strengthening the FfD follow-up process** within the UN, which would help to ensure implementation of agreements reached in Doha.

**The choice is now clear:** the EU can seize the opportunity of revisions to the international financial architecture to change unfair global power structures and rules that inhibit developing countries' ability to finance their own people's development. Or, it can continue to proclaim grand rhetoric about the impact of the financial, food, and energy crises on the world's poor, while disregarding the interests of the vulnerable in the scramble for profile at the table of the world's most powerful.

**CIDSE** members from France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, and the United States will travel to Doha, where CIDSE will organize a side event launching its **forthcoming policy paper on taxation and development**. See also CIDSE's [letter](#) to EU Development Ministers as well as [CONCORD message](#) on capital flight presented by Eurodad to EU Development ministers meeting in Bordeaux at the end of September.

## **Joint EU-Africa strategy: where are we one year after the Lisbon Summit**

The EU-Africa Strategy and its Action Plan adopted by EU and African Heads of States in Lisbon in December 2007 are structured around 8 partnerships: peace and security; democratic governance and human rights; trade and regional integration; the millennium development goals; energy; climate change; migration, mobility and employment; science, information society and space.

The EU has stated that the official processes will be nourished and enriched through engagement with citizens and civil society organizations, resulting in not only an institutionally-centred strategy, but also one to which civil society on both continents can relate, contribute and support in their own work. However, although some efforts have initially been realized in 2008 in involving the European civil society in the debates, **the participation of African civil society organizations is lagging behind.**

The Commission Communication COM (2008) 617 "**One year after Lisbon – the Africa-EU partnership at work**" and the staff working document accompanying it (available [here](#)) aim to assess the first year of the Joint Strategy and its first Action Plan (2008-2010), to outline the main challenges ahead, and to provide inputs for a joint progress report. The Communication reviews the initial progress made on the overall political objectives of the Joint Strategy and on the implementation of the 8 thematic partnerships.

Within the EU Council, the ad hoc working group on Africa became permanent to coordinate EU member states' positions on and contributions to the implementation of the Joint Strategy. The group consists of experts from the EU member states and has established 8 implementing teams, one for each partnership of the strategy. For each implementation team, one or two member states play a coordinating role. In the case of regional integration the coordinating role is played by the EC and in case of peace and security by the secretariat of the Council.

According to the action plan, similar mechanisms should be set up on the AU side and the two processes should lead to the establishment of a Joint expert group for each partnership. Civil society

representatives are supposed to take part in these expert groups. **The Joint Expert Groups should be formalised at the Ministerial EU-AU Troika meeting planned on 20 November.**

Considering the delay observed in putting in place this institutional framework, it is not surprising that **little progress has been achieved so far**. In its working paper, the EC staff describes a series of initiatives and activities that are under preparation or represent a continuation of pre-existing processes of dialogue and cooperation that all fall in one way or another under the broad coverage of the strategy.

**The majority of these actions are financed with the European Development Fund (EDF)** with, so far, limited additional contributions from the EU Member states concentrating mainly on the Infrastructure Trust Fund that had been launched before the strategy was adopted.

The two other initiatives that are more consistent and well advanced are the African Peace Facility (600 million from 10<sup>th</sup> EDF) that was established in 2004 to support Africa-led peace keeping missions and the strengthening of African military capabilities through programmes such as the Euro-RECAMP<sup>1</sup>. The second one is the Energy partnership for which a € 200 million replenishment of the EDF funded Energy Facility is foreseen.

The measures described under the partnerships on Human Rights and Democracy relate essentially to political dialogue and institutional development on the African side with no substantial financial support and concrete actions foreseen. The **launching of the multi-stakeholder Governance Platform** planned in the joint strategy will apparently take place in 2009

With regard to the MDGs, the EC paper refers to the **EU agenda of action on MDGs** that was adopted by the Council in view of the September UN Conference. The added value of the EU-Africa strategy seems to be to promote and organise consultations and dialogue on a series of African or multilateral initiatives relating to food security, health and education.

On migration, we know that **an ACP migration facility/project is financed with EDF** intra-ACP funds notably to establish an ACP migration observatory and to strengthen institutional capacities in regions and countries most concerned as well as the capacities of civil society on migration issues.

Note that in addition to activities undertaken under the 8 partnerships, **55 m€ are allocated to the institutional and capacity building of the AU Commission** and that the EC suggested to use part of that envelope to support participation of the African side in the institutional architecture agreed in Lisbon.

It is quite obvious from the progress report of the Commission that **the priorities of the EU-Africa strategies are well reflected in the programming of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF** regional and intra-ACP envelopes and will influence the mid-term review of the Country strategy papers. Moreover, the second review of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement to take place in 2010 will also certainly be influenced by the EU-Africa Strategy and it is expected that the EU will use that opportunity to officialise the use of the intra-ACP envelope of the EDF to support the implementation of the EU-Africa Strategy in the long run through pan-African programmes and facilities.

Convergence of objectives and priorities between the EDF programming and the EU-Africa strategy is not a problem in itself but it is quite clear that **EDF resources alone will not be sufficient** to achieve the ambitions of the 8 partnerships and that resources are diverted from national indicative programmes co-managed by the EC and the ACP governments to all sorts of intra ACP facilities and initiatives at pan-African or regional level managed by the EC and/or the AU Commission or other regional bodies. Between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF, we have observed an increase of the funds allocated to the regional and intra-ACP envelopes while **national indicative programmes only represent 68 % of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF**.

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<sup>1</sup> a two-year programme of strategic-level training activities to be provided to African partners. EURO RECAMP is designed by the AU to support the training and operationalisation of the African Standby Force by 2010 and will cover both the military and civilian components of crisis management. In January 2008 discussions were held in Addis Ababa with the AU and the framework nation to prepare the main elements of the EURO RECAMP cycle: timing, scenario, activities and financial issues.

## European NGOs ready to challenge their own Effectiveness in development

Development NGOs National Platforms and Networks from Europe gathered to the office of CONCORD, the European Confederation of Development NGOs, in Brussels to discuss a strategy to organize the European contribution to the global process on CSO development effectiveness (see EU News 5).

Undoubtedly, NGOs are important development actors: they deliver essential social services to vulnerable populations, influence policies, support communities in claiming and exercising their rights... and manage large assistance budgets. In spite of this, CSOs were excluded of the international talks regarding aid effectiveness. Consequently, the result of these talks, i.e. the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, was found unsuitable for CSOs. However, CSOs agreed that their effectiveness and accountability should also be further defined, and measured against criteria that they would agree upon. CSOs started immediately designing a process, called **the “Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness”**, which aims at reaching a consensual global framework for CSO effectiveness. In the Accra Agenda for Action adopted at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra last September, the Paris Declaration stakeholders, i.e. donors and developing countries governments, fully recognized this CSO-led initiative, which implicitly means also that these stakeholders recognize that the Paris Declaration is not applicable to CSOs.

Just like their partners in developed and developing countries, European CSOs are ready to take up the challenge to look into the questions of how effective they are in their development interventions and how they could improve their effectiveness. Many European CSOs have already in place a number of mechanisms, standards, and codes of conduct relating to programme quality, monitoring and evaluation, partnership, accountability, financial transparency. European CSOs should now look at all the lessons learned and duplicability of these initiatives.

Generally, European CSOs are both aid recipients, since many of them are partly or fully funded by back-donors, and aid donors, when they transfer funds to their partner organizations in the South to implement development projects. In these circumstances, it is hard to define how much space is left for European CSOs to define their own effectiveness criteria; often they are subject to and forward onto their partners the effectiveness criteria imposed by back-donors. **This situation is one of the greatest challenges and frustrations in the partnership relation between European and Southern CSOs.** This situation reveals also the need for a constructive dialogue between CSOs in the North and in the South along with donors and developing countries partner governments.

For more information on the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness, see: [www.cso-effectiveness.org](http://www.cso-effectiveness.org)

## Local authorities in the limelight during the French Presidency

European local authorities can control a significant part of public aid (15% in Spain, 10% in Germany). In October, the Commission published a [communication](#) on local authorities as actors for development, underlining the **need for better coordination** of development efforts between local and national level in Europe and in the South, in line with aid effectiveness principles. The **added value** of local authorities is seen to be their wide field of action, ability to act as a catalyst for change, long-term partnerships and twinning, responsiveness to local needs, multi-actor partnerships, and citizen awareness-raising.

The Council conclusions on local authorities, to be adopted on 11 November, underline the important role of local authorities in democratic governance. The Council asks the Commission to bring together available information on EU decentralised cooperation and to develop its proposal for a "stock exchange" to enable local authorities in Europe to share information with partner countries. Local governance is also **theme of this year's [EU Development Days](#)**, to take place on 15-17 November in Strasbourg, France. One focal point will be the European Charter on cooperation in support of local governance, developed with contributions from platforms of local authorities, NGOs, Member States, the Commission and the Committee of the Regions.

## EU SECTORAL POLICIES

### Insufficient consideration for the linkages between climate change and development in the EU

Over the last 15 years, the issue of global climate change has become one of the priorities on the international and European political agenda. Political interest has been generally focused on reducing global warming average; not much was discussed about the consequence of climate change on vulnerable populations. **With only 8% of the world's population, the EU Member States produce around 15% of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.** The EU has undertaken a number of initiatives and legislation, especially focusing on implementing the commitments for emission reductions set in the Kyoto Protocol. Amongst them, the "EU's greenhouse gas Emission Trading Scheme (ETS)" which was put in place in 2005. The "European Climate Change Program" adopted in 2000 to better identify all the needed elements to implement the Kyoto Protocol was revised in 2005, with the objective to strengthen the EU ETS (see EC [MEMO/06/452](#) and [IP/06/1548](#)). The most recent EU policy initiative consists of the comprehensive "**Energy and Climate Change package**". With this package, the EU sets itself the ambitious goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% and boost renewable and energy efficiency by 20 percent, all by 2020.

Too little efforts have been invested in addressing the linkages between climate change and development. Environment and development NGOs deplore in particular the lack of resources and efforts dedicated to the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Development and Climate Change adopted in 2003 and to the newly created Global Climate Change Alliance ([more info](#)). However, things seem to start changing, especially in the European Parliament (EP). In a number of [recently adopted reports](#), **MEPs have elaborated a constructive approach** regarding the role of the European Union towards developing countries most vulnerable to climate change. The EP Development Committee highlighted the need to place climate change at the core of EU development cooperation policy and to ensure a strong coherence between climate change policy and other EU policies affecting development, including agriculture, trade, fisheries, aid, and debt. MEPs also voted for strong EU action in the form of financial support for adaptation, technical assistance, and technology transfer and cooperation to developing countries to facilitate the use, at the earliest stage possible, of technologies which emit little Greenhouse Gas and of environmentally friendly production methods. **Future cost for adaptation are estimated at \$50 billion a year by Oxfam and as high as \$86 billion a year by UNDP.**

MEPs have also called on the Commission and Member States to take a much greater responsibility for funding adaptation to climate change measures in developing countries. As they reviewed the ETS, the EP Environment Committee earlier this month agreed on a visionary method to help developing countries by **earmarking 50% of the profits raised from auctioning the emission permits for funding climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes in vulnerable countries.** The Parliament stressed that, if climate change is to be taken seriously, new funding should be made available through different budget lines, new financing and innovative financing mechanisms, in the amount of € 10 billion by 2020.

These positions are in line with the demands of development and environment NGOs who closely monitor the decision making process at EU level. **Caritas and CIDSE are calling on governments to find financial resources to fund adaptation and mitigation** programmes for developing countries to cope with the impact of climate change. Such funding should be additional to the Official Development Aid already committed and innovative funding mechanisms must be explored.

In a recent discussion paper entitled "International Instruments for Financing Adaptation to Climate Change", **EED and Brot für die Welt support that position and recommend that international agreements on climate change and on human rights can and should provide the framework** for adaptation both within and outside the UN framework. New funds need to be established and designed according to the criteria of the UNFCCC, i.e. be appropriate, equitable, new and additional, adequate and predictable. These funds should be based on internationally derived resources (such as auctioning of emission permits or levies on transactions under the international carbon market) and not rely only on voluntary contributions by national governments.

The strong messages from the European Parliament are important contributions for shaping the **EU position for the upcoming major UNFCCC conference taking place in Poznan**, Poland in December and the Conference in Copenhagen next year. Financing adaptation will be a decisive issue on the Copenhagen agenda. It is the responsibility of the Member States to adopt a common EU negotiating position but 4 weeks before Poznan conference many issues are still controversial. Certain Member States in particular are opposed to the earmarking of auctioning revenues under the ETS. At their last meeting, EU's environment ministers convened that least-developed states could be exempted from any constraints on emissions. They also agreed that in order for the EU to sign up to a global emissions reductions regime, advanced developing states like China and India have to commit to reduce their GHG emissions by at least 20% by 2020.

**At domestic level, Europe's environment ministers are challenged to reach a constructive agreement** on sharing effort in emissions reduction before the end of the year. Such an agreement is still elusive as divergences amongst Member states remain important, with some Member States such as Italy and Poland already expressing serious reservations regarding higher emissions cuts. Exemption from the ETS auctioning system for polluting industrial sectors (such as power sector) is also a major source of dispute. **The decisions have been postponed until the next European Summit on 10 December** that will coincide with the launch of the Poznan Conference of Parties!

**As CIDSE and Caritas Internationalis prepare to launch in Poznan their joint campaign** for an equitable and socially just post-2012 climate change deal, they are calling on all governments, and on the EU in particular as it finalises its Climate Change Package, to go to Poznan with ambitious proposals that will demonstrate the will to agree a just and effective agreement. See also CIDSE's [letter](#) to EU Environment ministers.

**A strong delegation of APRODEV members accompanied by partners** from developing countries is also expected in Poznan where they will organise side events, joint campaigning and media activities and launch research papers.

#### **Further information:**

Comprehensive information about EU climate change policies is available at:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/home\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/home_en.htm)

Information about the UN framework can be found at:

<http://unfccc.int>

On EU energy package see also [http://www.climnet.org/EUenergy/EU\\_Energy\\_Package.html#](http://www.climnet.org/EUenergy/EU_Energy_Package.html#)

## **Trade negotiations with Latin America: chronicle of delayed Sustainability Impact Assessments**

The European Union has to carry out Sustainability Impact Assessments (SIA) covering all the commercial agreements that are being negotiated. Therefore also for the negotiations of Association Agreements with two Latin American regions: Central America and the Andean region, which started in July 2007. While negotiations, specially with Central America, accelerated the impact assessments has yet to even be started, making it clear that the UE doesn't consider knowing or investigating the potential impacts of the agreements a priority.

The mandate of the SIA was adopted in April 2007 but so far, the EC was unable to identify the team of consultants that will undertake the work. A first tendering process was interrupted before signature of the contract and a second one with revised ToR was launched in August 2008 and is not finalised yet.

Because of the delay the new version of the terms of references (produced for 3 regions at the same time) foresee a relatively quick SIA in 8 months. The EC has already preselected the areas in which it is going to investigate, rather than leave it to the consultants. Key sectors selected are agriculture and processed agricultural products and industrial products and the following are mentioned as options: textiles, chemicals, machinery/vehicles; and services.

But after such a long delay and in face of an accelerated negotiating process (at least in Central America) it is impossible to take the SIA seriously as an instrument which could potentially influence the negotiations and improve the contents of the agreement. Nevertheless owing to the lack of transparency and information with regards to the negotiations as a whole, it could potentially still be used as an instrument to obtain information about the negotiations and their possible consequences. This however depends greatly on the level of seriousness and commitment with which it is carried out.

On the European side, the SIA is the only feature of the negotiations on which consultation of civil society will be formalised consisting primarily of a webpage with a feedback function, where reactions and propositions can be recorded as well as interviews and meetings with key stakeholders within the Civil Society. A regional workshop will be organised in Managua. The EU however, has not specified which non-state actors they want to give priority to (civil society at large or private sector only) and obvious limitations are foreseeable: the working language of the SIA is necessarily going to be English, with an exception being made, however, for the workshop in Managua which will be bi-lingual and the number of participants at the *regional* workshop in Managua will be 40 people.

One of the most interesting parts of the Terms of References is about the Andean Region: it includes the request for additional "sub scenarios" that will take account of a degree of differentiation of commitments among member countries of the CAN (Andean Countries).

More information at: <http://www.aprodev.net/pica/index.htm>

### **Civil Society Days of 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum on Migration and Development in Manila**

Caritas Europa, as member of the global Caritas Internationalis delegation, participated in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) at the end of October in Manila. Topics of debate in the round table sessions were, among others, the shared responsibility to protect the Rights of migrants, fostering more opportunities for legal migration, empowering migrants and diaspora to contribute to development and the need for more policy coherence between migration and development policies. Caritas presented a statement stressing the urgent need to focus on development as such rather than on some developmental impacts of migration. Caritas advocates for a stronger participation of development NGOs in the event. The next edition will take place in Greece in the second half of 2009.

More information: <http://www.caritas-europa.org/code/EN/migr.asp?Page=891>

### **Second European Day against Human Trafficking**

On the occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European day of the fight against human trafficking, Secours Catholique-Caritas France and Caritas Europa organised in Paris, on 16 October 2008, an international symposium entitled "**Fighting trafficking in children: what is to be done in the European Union?**". The conference, including a photo exhibition on related aspects in the different continents, is jointly organised with the French collective "Ensemble contre la traite des êtres humains" (United against Human Trafficking) and COATNET (Christian Organisations against Trafficking in Human Beings). The worldwide confederation of Caritas Internationalis is also associated to this event, which has been granted the approval of the French EU Presidency and is held with the participation of the European Commission. Vice president Jacques Barrot, Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security, said in his concluding speech that in order to fight trafficking more effectively, he wants to strengthen Eurojust and Europol, which should become an EU Agency. He stressed that assistance to victims should be given directly and unconditionally, i.e. not related to a residence permit or the will to testify against traffickers. The higher interest of the child should be the main consideration. Mr. Barrot announced a review of the EU framework decision on child trafficking. Concluding, Barrot expressed the conviction that the fight against trafficking can only be won through an alliance between authorities and Civil Society Organisations.

More information: <http://www.coatnet.org/en> and <http://www.contrelatraite.org> and [French Presidency website](#)

## **EU HUMANITARIAN AID POLICY**

### **EU Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries postponed**

In June, the European Commission's DG Development had launched a public consultation on the preparation of an EU Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries, to which a number of NGOs had responded, including Caritas Europa (see EU News 5). The Commission's Communication on this DRR Strategy was expected in October but there is a delay in the process.

The issue seems to carry more political weight than perceived in the beginning. The delay may stem from the fact that DG Environment is simultaneously developing an EC Communication on DRR within the EU, entitled "towards a comprehensive Community strategy for the prevention of natural and manmade disasters", which is planned for adoption in November 2008.

Therefore, the process regarding the EU DRR Strategy for Developing Countries will be handed over to the Czech Presidency, with a likely adoption by the Commission in the first quarter of 2009, followed by Council Conclusions in spring. Nevertheless, DG DEV will start preparing an Action Plan to follow from the Communication. It could be decided to map what has already been done and to establish an EU Task Force (of Member States officials) for implementation priorities, as well as a network on DRR to facilitate EU Member States' DRR coordination per country (in-country), and also linking with European capitals.

### **DRC: EC response to the fightings in North Kivu**

ECHO has an emergency response expert in the city of Goma. He is closely following developments in the humanitarian situation on the ground. The EC has allotted **€4 million in emergency funding** to help vulnerable people caught up in the intensifying conflict between the Congolese armed forces and the rebel movement 'Congrès National de la Défense du Peuple' (CNDP). Louis Michel has also stated his **intention of transferring €12 million from the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF)** to use for the immediate humanitarian response in the DRC.

As many humanitarian projects can only be reached by air, the Commission runs a dedicated humanitarian air service called "ECHO-Flight". Its 3 aircrafts also carry out emergency evacuations.

**On 31 October, Louis Michel launched a call for a new 'Nairobi' Peace Summit** to bring together all regional leaders and international bodies in a bid to secure an agreement to end the conflict and bring lasting stability for the Kivus region. The 'Nairobi 2' summit, which would be held in the Kenyan capital under the auspices of the United Nations, would unite leaders from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi as well as the European Union, the United States and all regional bodies including the African Union, SADC, COMESA and EAC.

Commissioner Michel believes that any future 'Nairobi 2' summit is essential to bring both leaders (Kabila and Kagame) as well as other key regional leaders and international representatives to negotiations at the same table. Only a political solution that deals with the root causes of the crisis can bring stability. The Nairobi agreement of November 2007 and the Goma conference of January this year remain the points of reference to start a renewed peace process. For further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm)

**Caritas appeals for peace in Congo** - Caritas Internationalis is appealing for peace in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to end the suffering of the people and to allow the aid agency to provide aid. Around 250,000 civilians have fled their homes in North Kivu since January peace and nearly 850,000 had been displaced in the previous two years. Many Caritas organizations fund programmes in eastern Congo or have staff on the ground. The joint Caritas emergency response aims to provide food and other aid items to 90,000 people made homeless by the fighting in eastern Congo. Distributions of food by Caritas staff to 10,000 households was halted after fighting meant staff could not travel. Unless security is quickly restored, planned Caritas distributions of non-food items in the provincial capital Goma and the outlying region are likely to be compromised, preventing 16,000 homes from receiving aid. Caritas national staff remain in place and continue to support the people as their humanitarian needs increase.

## **EU RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES**

### **Regional integration in the ACP countries: EC communication and regional strategy papers**

The executive summary of the EC [Communication](#) on regional integration starts with the following statement: *The Communication outlines a new vision of development based on regional integration. The idea is that economic and political integration can bring prosperity as well as peace and stability. Europe has experienced this for over 50 years and this paper looks at how ACP countries can develop and expand their own regional initiatives.*

This new vision of development based on regional integration is well reflected in the so-called Association Agreements that become the standard model of EC cooperation with third developing countries or regions and are based on a (free) trade agreement combined with financial cooperation and political dialogue. The present negotiations of an association agreement with Central America provides a good example of this forceful approach.

The shift towards the regional level is also observed in the EU-ACP cooperation and is closely related with the EPA negotiations; it will be at the core of the review of the Cotonou Agreement to be negotiated in 2009.

In its communication, the Commission presents a comprehensive concept of regional integration with the triple aim of political stability, economic prosperity and tackling common challenges collectively. However when it comes to more concrete parts of the communication on recommendations and concrete priority measures, this vision tends to be narrowed down to the economic and trade areas mainly.

This trade dominated approach to regional integration is well reflected in the 10th EDF regional programmes to be adopted and signed before the end of the year and presented in a separate [EC paper](#).

The EDF regional envelope almost doubled to € 1.78 billion between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> EDF and **75% of it will be used to support economic integration.**

The paper says: *The forthcoming ACP Regional Strategy Papers (RSPs) are to serve the five main priorities outlined in section 4 of the EC communication*, namely Strengthening regional institutions, Building regional integrated markets, Supporting business development, Connecting regional infrastructure networks and Developing regional policies for sustainable development.

According to the EC, the RSPs will:

- Provide, in all regions, **support for regional mechanisms to foster peace and stability**, prevent and manage conflicts, and fight security threats (such as organised crime), thus furthering a broadly-defined regional human security agenda. In West, Southern and East Africa, EDF support will help strengthen the regional pillar of the pan-African architecture of peace and security.

- **Pay particular attention to regional economic integration, with almost 75% of the indicative appropriation** (i.e. €1.3 billion) likely to be devoted to this area.

- Within the regional economic integration agenda, focus on specific regional priorities, with an emphasis on the **completion of more integrated markets**; the development of productive capacities; and the improvement of infrastructure networks and enhanced regional cooperation for the promotion of sustainable energy policies. **There will be a particular focus on EPA support measures**: almost half of the Caribbean RIP would be allocated to their EPA commitments.

- Reflect the diversity of ACP regions in terms of **their priorities for sustainable development**. This applies, in particular, to the second focal sector in the Pacific (fisheries) and in Central Africa (forestry). Support for food security and agriculture is foreseen in West Africa, and for land, water and marine resources management in East Africa.

- Support good regional governance, with an emphasis on capacity-building for non-state Actors (no details on the volume and kind of support are provided).

**Under the 10th EDF national programmes**, more importance is also given to regional issues. 30% (€3.7 billion) of the national envelopes relate to economic development, with the bulk going to economic infrastructure (around €3 billion, with a stronger focus on regional connections) and a significant amount of support to trade and regional integration and production sectors, including agriculture (around €600 million). {end of extract}

Regional integration is one of the issues to be discussed at the seminar organised by the CONCORD Cotonou working group on 4 December in Paris with the participation of partners from the ACP countries.

We expect from that discussion **a much broader vision of regional integration as a multifaceted process** originating from a shared will of a group of states to elaborate and manage jointly a series of political goals in the economic, social, environmental, cultural and human security areas. Regional integration is also subject to the establishment of common institutions able, among others, to defend joint positions in international arenas. All of this requires time and is not compatible with the kind of rhythm and pressure imposed by the EC on its ACP partners in the context of the EPA negotiations.

The EC communication on regional integration will be presented to other EU institutions, leading to Council conclusions and possibly a European Parliament opinion.

## **EU proposes good neighbour approach to China's role in Africa**

The EU has watched on with a wary eye in recent years at China's increasing engagement in Africa's economy and development. In October, the Commission proposed in a communication to develop a trilateral cooperation aimed at improving coordination of EU and Chinese activities in Africa, focusing on four areas: peace and security; infrastructure; natural resources; and agriculture and food security. The EU proposes to gently bring China into the fold on aid effectiveness, through its participation in

donor coordination meetings at country level, as well as various exchanges at other levels. Controversial issues such as the Chinese principle of “non-interference” and opposition to Western-style governance conditionality, the sustainability and economic self-interest of Chinese projects, not mentioned. Rather than lecturing China on good development cooperation, the EU proposes to **hold exchanges on lessons learned in hopes that engagement with China on an equal basis** will prove to be the better strategy.

Papers available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/development/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/development/index_en.cfm)

### **The EC and Cuba signed a joint declaration to re-launch their cooperation**

The European Commission and the Republic of Cuba have relaunched their cooperation. The joint declaration, signed by Commissioner Louis Michel and Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Felipe Pérez Roque at ceremony in Havana on 24 October provides a general framework to guide both parties as future cooperation is progressively developed.

They agreed to continue to explore the areas for potential cooperation. These could include the environment, science and technology, trade, cultural exchanges and disaster preparedness. European Commission funding of between 20 and 25 million euros could be invested in this future co-operation. In addition, the European Commission announced that it has earmarked an initial 2 million euros to assist in the reconstruction of areas devastated by hurricanes Gustav and Ike with a focus on rebuilding homes ([EC press release](#)).

## **OTHER NEWS FROM THE EU**

### **2010 declared the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**

In response to a European Commission’s proposal, the Council and the European Parliament formally and unanimously agreed to declare 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Such a decision should guarantee political commitment from European actors such as EU institutions, Member States, and social partners, and encourage civil society mobilization. The European Year 2010 objectives are to bring forward *recognition* of the rights of people experiencing poverty, increase *ownership* of public responsibility, *cohesion* in the society and political *commitment* of the EU in the fight against poverty and social inclusion. This decision also provides a financial framework in the Community budget of Euro 17 million for actions designed to meet the above mentioned objectives.

For Caritas, the European Year 2010 represents not only an opportunity for a new drive to fight against poverty, but also another step to lobby for the poor with contributions from people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in Europe and outside.

## **NEWS FROM THE NETWORKS**

### **NEWS FROM APRODEV**

**Climate change and gender:** the Climate Change group and the Gender reference group of APRODEV organise a joint workshop on Gender and Climate Change in Copenhagen on 6 November. The debate will be introduced by a key note speech by Geraldine Terry, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.

From 11.-14.11.2008 the **Final Seminar of the ENPI KIC project** will take place in Brussels. The ENPI KIC Project is implemented by Eurostep in association with Aprodev, Oxfam Novib, Acsur and Womnet. The overall objective is to ensure that EC’s cooperation with its Eastern and Mediterranean neighbours reflects the people’s aspiration in the region; specifically in the context of the mid term review of EC assistance. The specific objectives are to increase the knowledge & monitoring skills of CSOs on ENP/ENPI issues (“capacity building”) and to bring recommendations of CSOs on ENP/ENPI issues to the EU (“advocacy”).

Since the preparatory workshop in March 2008 until the Final Seminar, six national workshops have taken place in Moldova, Egypt, Morocco, Georgia, Ukraine, Palestine. The Aprodev Secretariat supports Eurostep in the organisation of the Final Seminar where partners from the region will present the outcome of the national workshops to EU officials. The ENPI KIC Project is highly valued by EU officials and might serve as a good example and inspiration for similar projects in the future.

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## **NEWS FROM CIDSE**

On 7 November, CIDSE will organize an **expert seminar** in Brussels: ***The EU's aid to the occupied Palestinian territory: How to improve coherence and effectiveness in line with International Law?*** In policy-oriented workshops, participants from EU institutions and member states, academics and NGO representatives will exchange views on how the EU can be a more effective player in an environment of continuing conflict and disrespect for international law. Contact: [koon.degroof@broederlijkdelen.be](mailto:koon.degroof@broederlijkdelen.be)

In October, CIDSE published its quarterly [Advocacy Newsletter Nr. 40](#) with an **editorial on the international financial crisis and financing for development**. CIDSE underlines the need to set debates on aid effectiveness within a wider context. Aid's real contribution to reducing poverty must be examined, as well as its relative value as compared to other avenues developing countries have at their disposal to combat poverty: the ability to effectively raise and deploy fiscal revenue, combat capital flight, rely on fair trade rules and be free from debt burdens.

## **NEWS FROM CARITAS EUROPA**

**Caritas President receives the Viktor Frankl Foundation award** - The Honorary Award 2007 of the Viktor Frankl Foundation was presented by the Vienna municipality to Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa (Honduras) and President of Caritas Internationalis, for his engagement towards the poor and disadvantaged. The Honorary Award of the Viktor Frankl Foundation is a special acknowledgement, which is granted to personalities having delivered internationally appreciated results in the area of science, teaching or therapy. The relevance of Cardinal Maradiaga's mission for the humanist psychotherapy was mentioned among the motivations for this prestigious prize.

**Caritas Italy issues a report on poverty and social exclusion in Italy** - On the occasion of the World Day for Combating Poverty (October 17), Caritas Italy presented its eighth report on poverty and social exclusion in Italy entitled "resigned to poverty?". Based on an analysis of the response capacity of the Italian welfare system, the report identifies the tools to build a new and practical approach to the complex problems of poverty. According to Caritas Italy the challenge is to seriously implement the principle of social equity and universalism, targeting the most vulnerable, which requires a higher level of collaboration between the institutional and social stakeholders.

**Caritas Vietnam opens its doors after 32 years** - Caritas Vietnam was re-launched on 22 October, ending a 32-year hiatus in its operations in the Communist country. With the approval of the government, Caritas Vietnam's operations will include the needs of disabled, orphaned, ethnic minority and poor children; women, especially those living in poverty and victims of violence and of human trafficking; drug users; people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

**Caritas appeals for peace in Congo** - Caritas Internationalis is appealing for peace in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to end the suffering of the people and to allow the aid agency to provide aid. Around 250,000 civilians have fled their homes in North Kivu since January peace and nearly 850,000 had been displaced in the previous two years. Many Caritas organizations fund programmes in eastern Congo or have staff on the ground. The joint Caritas emergency response aims to provide food and other aid items to 90,000 people made homeless by the fighting in eastern Congo. Distributions of food by Caritas staff to 10,000 households was halted after fighting meant staff could not travel. Unless security is quickly restored, planned Caritas distributions of non-food items in the provincial capital Goma and the outlying region are likely to be compromised, preventing 16,000 homes from receiving aid. Caritas national staff remain in place and continue to support the people as their humanitarian needs increase.

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**APRODEV** is the association of the 17 major development and humanitarian aid organisations in Europe, which work closely together with the World Council of Churches. APRODEV agencies engage in many kinds of activities related to development cooperation: relief, rehabilitation and development activities, capacity building, research, awareness raising and campaigning, education and advocacy. <http://www.aprodev.net/main> - 28 Boulevard Charlemagne, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium – Tel : +32 2 234 56 60

**CIDSE** (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity) is a coalition of 16 Catholic development agencies in Europe and North America which share a common vision on poverty eradication and social justice and a common strategy on development programmes, development education and advocacy. CIDSE's advocacy work covers trade and food security, resources for development, climate change and EU development policy. <http://www.cidse.org> - 16 rue Stévin, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium – Tel: +32 2 230 77 22

**Caritas Europa**, one of the 7 regions of Caritas Internationalis, is the European network of 48 Caritas member organisations, working in 44 European countries. Caritas Europa focuses its activities on policy issues related to poverty and social inequality, migration and asylum within all countries of Europe, and issues of emergency humanitarian assistance, international development and peace throughout the world. With regard to all these issues, the organisation develops policies for political advocacy and lobbying at European level and at national level. <http://www.caritas-europa.org> - 4 Rue De Pascale, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium – Tel: +32 2 280 02 80