

## A snapshot of our work in 2010/2011

### Towards a 'normalisation' of ACP-EU relations

Two thousand and ten was a year in which new global players underscored their ascendance in the world order. Emerging economies leveraged their strong economic recovery with a rapid expansion of global trade and finance, including to developing countries. By contrast, many traditional global powers struggled to make ends meet. Countries that have been prominent donors for decades fell back on their development cooperation commitments. Many, moreover, continued to integrate their development support with responses to a host of other concerns – such as peace and security, climate change, economic recovery and growth, and food security. They now expect developing countries to shoulder more responsibility for these global burdens as well.

Africa, as one of the world's fastest growing regions, provides a good example of the changing development context. Many African countries have improved their political and macroeconomic stability and are undertaking social reforms, resulting in a better business climate. This has not gone unnoticed by today's rising giants. If current trends continue, countries like China, India, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Turkey will quickly overtake Europe as Africa's largest trading partner. Investment from emerging markets now already comprises 38% of the total to Africa. However, as former UN



'The ACP will have to look to its survival as an independent entity and re-examine why it was set up. I firmly believe that it's an important meeting place, especially for us coming from the Caribbean, being mostly of African descent.'

Shirley Skerrett Andrew,  
Ambassador of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States  
to Brussels

Secretary General Kofi Annan warned at the recent World Economic Forum on Africa, 'The strong economic growth of the continent has not translated into the creation of jobs or the reduction of poverty.'

### Developing a vision beyond 2020

Does this mean the beginning of the end for traditional development cooperation? In ECDPM's Annual Report 2010, Director Paul Engel suggests that change is indeed on the horizon. The shift in global relations has compelled the ACP and European Union to reconsider their relationship. Now is the time to develop a vision beyond 2020, the year of expiration of the current Cotonou Partnership Agreement -- the centrepiece of Europe's partnership with the ACP.

The second revision of the Cotonou Agreement in 2010 emphasised enhanced cooperation on a broader global agenda that includes food security, conflict, migration, regional integration, HIV/AIDS and the sustainability of fisheries. At the institutional level, the African Union became a formal partner of the EU-ACP relationship.

On the European side, the Lisbon Treaty has considerably affected the conduct of Europe's international relations. For the first time in EU history, sustainable development and poverty eradication are explicitly mentioned as objectives of EU External Action, and not merely as development policy objectives. Yet it is significant that the Lisbon Treaty includes no specific reference to the ACP Group. These are both signs of a 'normalisation' of relations between Europe and the countries of the ACP.

This evolving policy context offers opportunities for development to play a new and invigorated role in global affairs. But it also raises several critical policy challenges. A first challenge is for traditional development actors to respond constructively to the South-South coalitions that today are becoming more entrenched as a new model for cooperation and innovative alliances. A second challenge is development effectiveness. Will the emerging donor countries focus narrowly on the outputs of their own aid, or will they build on lessons learned from existing aid relationships on fostering capacity in partner countries? Finally, will global donors be able to live up to their commitments, in particular, towards the most vulnerable countries – the fragile, least developed, land-locked and small-island developing states?

ECDPM has a long track record as an independent institution working on issues at the heart of the ACP-EU relationship, such as international trade, governance and accountability, policy coherence for development, and development effectiveness. The Centre will continue in this tradition, working closely with its partners from the ACP and from Europe and to renew relationships among them. The ultimate objective is to improve cooperation and accelerate development, particularly for the world's most vulnerable people.

To download the Annual Report 2010, visit [www.ecdpm.org/ar10](http://www.ecdpm.org/ar10)

# PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

## Brokering Africa-EU dialogue

To inform discussions and inject new momentum in the complex process surrounding the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, the Centre published the widely disseminated scoping paper *What Next for the Joint Africa-EU Strategy? Perspectives on Revitalising an Innovative Framework*. ECDPM staff further contributed to numerous formal and informal events aimed at enhancing dialogue between stakeholders on both sides, including civil society organisations. An interview with the African Union's ambassador to the European Union, published on the ECDPM portal [www.europafira.net](http://www.europafira.net), quickly became one of the most popular items ever posted on the website, signifying widespread interest in African perspectives on the ACP-EU relationship.

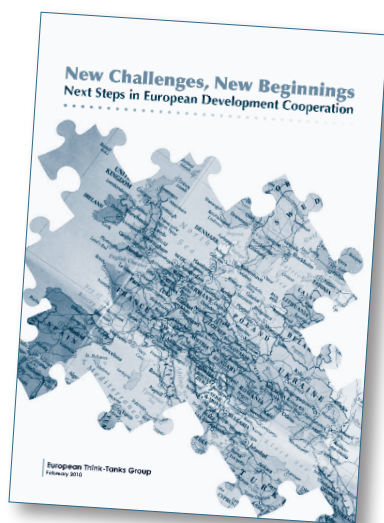
On Discussion Paper 94, *What Next for the Joint Africa-EU Strategy?*

*'I have received and read the discussion paper with interest. The analysis of the achievements and shortcomings of the JAES in its current stage of development is very useful to the work done by our Presidency.'*

Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miguel Angel Moratinos

*It's more than timely. We will quickly start today the preparations for the 14th Ministerial Troika.'*

African diplomatic representative to the African Union



## Thinking outside the box on economic and trade relations

While continuing to provide timely analysis and an online platform for knowledge exchange ([www.acp-eu-trade.org](http://www.acp-eu-trade.org)), ECDPM facilitated various informal exchanges behind the scenes to expedite political consensus on some of the most intractable issues in the ongoing EU-ACP trade negotiations. The value of these contributions was affirmed by continued requests for ECDPM analytical support from virtually all key players, including the African Union and regional economic communities, the ACP Group, and both the Spanish and Belgian EU presidencies.



## Shaping the future of EU development cooperation

As part of the European Think Tanks Group – an ECDPM partnership with three other Europe-based policy research institutes: ODI (UK), FRIDE (Spain) and DIE (Germany) – the Centre contributed to the flagship study *New Challenges, New Beginnings for EU Development Cooperation*, published in February 2010. At follow-up events in Brussels, Koenigswinter (Germany), London and Maastricht, directors of the four institutes led a coordinated dialogue that brought key European and ACP policy stakeholders around the table to critically review the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on international development.

## Spotlight on the Caribbean

With the CARIFORUM region being the only one to have signed an Economic Partnership Agreement, ECDPM collaborated with regional partners to produce two well-received studies on the experience so far. The first was a comparative study of the Caribbean and East Africa exploring potential benefits to the private sector from implementing an EPA. The second paper, published in cooperation with the West Indies Rum Association, analysed the impact of trade liberalisation on the Caribbean rum sector and examined how the lessons learned could be applied to other previously protected trade sectors facing similar adjustment challenges. That paper triggered requests from the WTO secretariat and the World Bank for additional analysis in the framework of the 'aid for trade' debate. Another key trade-related activity in 2010 was ECDPM's involvement in a meeting on regional integration organised by the Institute of International Relations in Trinidad and Tobago.



*'Thank you very much! It is a very interesting paper and arrives just when we are considering the design of our next wave of trade related assistance projects for the Caribbean and Pacific.'*

Official at the International Trade Centre, in response to Discussion Paper 104, *Implementing the Economic Partnership Agreement in the East African Community and the CARIFORUM Regions: What Is in It for the Private Sector?*

# 2010/2011

## Enhancing EU-ACP dialogue

ECDPM continued its tradition of disseminating timely analyses and convening regular policy briefings to reduce information asymmetries between European and ACP stakeholders. In the run up to the final negotiations for the second review of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, this helped to create an environment in which ACP partners could better distinguish and defend their interests. An example of such input at the sector level was the presentation of ECDPM's study on the EU Raw Materials Initiative to the ACP's first meeting of mining ministers and senior officials in December.

## Consolidating African governance processes

Over the past few years, multiple African stakeholders have called for a structured, open-ended and inclusive dialogue on African governance processes. This pertains particularly to the political and institutional foundations of the African Union and alternatives for organising a multi-level continental governance architecture. The completion of a set of initial documents detailing the structure of the proposed African Governance Platform was therefore a major achievement in 2010. Set for endorsement by African heads of state in 2011, the new mechanism will bring together diverse stand-alone initiatives, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and the proposed human rights strategy for Africa. As envisaged, the Platform will also enhance exchanges between African actors and other stakeholders, including European institutions within the framework of the EU-Africa Platform for Dialogue on Governance, also launched in 2010.

In this context, an ECDPM-facilitated evaluation of another pan-African platform, the German-supported All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralisation and Local Development (AMCOD) offered a useful reality check on the operational challenges of setting up such mechanisms. The study revealed the complex set of interests at play. The report fed into preparations for an extraordinary assembly of the AMCOD and the body's subsequent institutional reorganisation.

## Knowledge management and communication

Building on previous reviews (held in 2003, 2005 and 2008), the 2010 ECDPM knowledge management survey tracked the impact of the Centre's knowledge-sharing activities. At the same time it provided systematic input for the ECDPM external evaluation that began in late 2010. Among the survey findings were the following:

- Our information products and services remain centrally positioned at the interface between policy, practice and research, as they are equally distributed among government officials, NGOs and researchers/academics.
- In terms of geographical coverage, our audience is relatively evenly divided between Europe (55%) and the ACP (42%).
- ECDPM's mix of instruments (websites, publications, presentations, workshops and e-newsletters) provides timely input to policy processes and reaches different audiences.

- Our knowledge-sharing activities are particularly effective when they combine research and systematisation with dialogue facilitation and maintaining a foothold in the institutional environments in which we work.

*'Thank you again for what is now for me a very precious and awaited news bulletin on the EU-ACP world. Very helpful.'*

*Representative of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Zambia*

*'I would like to thank you for your continuing efforts towards providing valuable information and insight on recent issues pertaining to EU development policy.'*

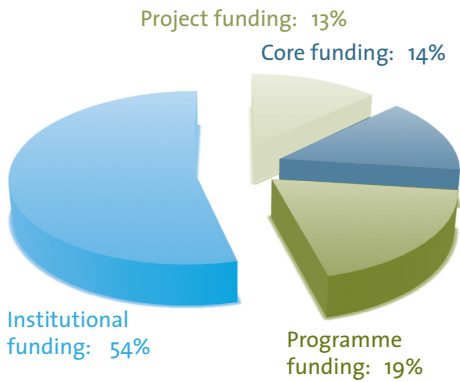
*Member of the European Parliament*

## Knowledge exchange and networking

Now in its second year, the Weekly Compass (WECO) newsletter is the centrepiece of ECDPM's goal to inform and nurture policy processes by utilising a range of communication tools – from traditional publications to the latest social networking technologies. The electronic bulletin is sent out to close to 9000 subscribers across governments, research institutions, international development agencies, NGOs and the private sector. Underpinning the newsletter is ECDPM's vast online database that allows readers to set up personalised topic-based email alerts or RSS feeds that can also be accessed via a range of social media, including Twitter and LinkedIn.



## Financial Report



In an increasingly difficult resource-mobilisation environment, ECDPM successfully secured additional institutional funding in 2010 amounting to almost 0.3 million over 2009. The Government of the Netherlands is our largest institutional donor, providing 10 million for the 2007–11 period. The UK Department for International Development (DFID) increased its support to the Centre with a new two-year programme funding agreement, and Spain provided institutional funding for the first time. Luxembourg and Sweden continued support of the Centre under a three-year agreement (2009–11), while Finland, Portugal and Switzerland extended their support for another two years (2010–12). Both Ireland and Belgium extended for one year.

As in previous years, project funding is increasingly sourced through tender processes, particularly for large initiatives. In addition to securing several European contracts, ECDPM received project funding from a number of Southern-based organisations, including the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

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## Fostering institutional partnerships and knowledge networking

ECDPM expanded and deepened its relationship with a select group of strategic institutional partners, in particular the Addis Ababa-based Commission of the African Union and the ACP Secretariat and Committee of Ambassadors. The Centre also continued its productive alliance with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and the Africa Governance Institute (AGI), headquartered in Dakar. Other key partners were the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria, the Institute of International Relations (IIR) in Trinidad and the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC) in the Caribbean. Each partnership aims to strengthen institutional capacity, mutual exchange and dialogue through a practical mix of collaborative programmes, facilitation of policy processes, events, staff exchanges, internships, and joint publications.

This hands-on partnership approach is illustrated by a new research programme funded by DFID (UK) in which ECDPM and SAIIA explore the implications of emerging development players for Africa-EU relations. The two organisations presented preliminary findings on the Africa activities of China, Brazil and India at conferences in Nairobi and Arusha in late 2010.

## ECDPM AT A GLANCE

ECDPM was established as an independent foundation in 1986, to facilitate international cooperation between developed and developing countries, with a particular focus on relations between the European Union and its partner countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP). ECDPM works to reduce asymmetries in knowledge, power and resources between developed and developing countries by reinforcing the capacity of public, private and non-profit organisations to better manage their development policies and international cooperation.

Among the underlying principles that guide our work is a strong emphasis on non-partisanship and inclusiveness. In line with our focus on strengthening institutional capacities, we apply a two-pronged approach that entails investing in long-term relationships with a limited number of strategic partners, whilst fostering internal learning and networking with different knowledge communities.

## CORE PROGRAMMES

The **Development Policy and International Relations Programme** promotes effective development cooperation with a view to helping developing countries, particularly those in Africa, to derive maximum benefit from their relations with the European Union.

The **Economic and Trade Cooperation Programme** contributes to the development of a trade regime that promotes sustainable

development and the integration of developing countries into the world economy. It also works to improve economic governance conditions and regional integration of ACP countries.

The **Governance Programme** seeks to contribute to informed dialogue and more effective cooperation between the ACP (primarily Africa) and the European Union, with a focus on supporting Africa's search for home-grown governance strategies. Providing overall support to the three programmes are support units on knowledge management and communications, institutional relations, policy innovation, and finance and administration.

## STAFFING

ECDPM employs 46 full time staff equivalents, two-thirds of whom are women. Some 80% of ECDPM staff is based at the head office in Maastricht, with the rest working at the Brussels office. Twenty-eight employees are programme development staff, with another 18 staff members working in administrative, communication, technical and human resource management functions. A further six programme associates and three research fellows (on project contracts) collaborate closely with the Centre. Roughly one-third of Centre staff and temporary staff are African and Caribbean nationals, with the rest drawn from Europe and North America. An additional three research fellows from Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya contributed to several ECDPM programmes, combining their doctorate studies with practical policy work.

