

A snapshot of our work in 2009/10



The ACP deserves greater visibility as a unique group of countries. Its mission, by necessity, has to include a strong commitment to poverty eradication and abolition, and deep engagement in a political dialogue on governance, accountability and transparency in partnership with Europe. The geopolitical dynamics of the recent global financial crisis have brought this to the fore.

P.I. Gomes, Guyana's ambassador to the EU
and ECDPM Board Member

ACP-EU relations in turbulent times

The year 2009 opened on a note of expectation and even suspense as the world waited for the first signs of global economic recovery, an end to the financial crisis and a global agreement to combat climate change. China, India and Brazil were undoubted winners on the economic front, emerging relatively unscathed from the financial crisis and making their presence felt on the global stage. In Europe, ratification of the Lisbon Treaty and nomination of the first EU President raised hopes that a stronger EU governance architecture would usher in more coherent and effective external relations. The disunity among European countries at the much-anticipated Copenhagen Climate Change Summit just weeks later, however, signalled that it would take more than a treaty to realise these aims.

On balance, therefore, the year ended on a turbulent note. As ECDPM Director Paul Engel sets out in the Annual Report, these experiences point to a number of emerging trends that will continue to define global development policy for years to come. First, *the Washington Consensus* finally and irrevocably faded into the background, introducing into the international debate new elements of choice for macro-economic and trade policy for development. Second, *the ability of developing economies to deal with global crises* – climate, economic, financial – and the ensuing scarcity of key resources – food, energy, finance, water – became a substantive part of the global development agenda. Third, *regional and sub-regional economic integration* gained momentum, particularly in Africa. Fourth, the claim to *global leadership by the large emerging economies* seemed to be understood and acted upon more fully by Obama's USA than by the internally divided EU.

These trends raise a number of policy questions: how to redirect development efforts to effectively address the wide range of global issues that present themselves, at least partly, as development challenges; how to work side-by-side with non-development actors, creating synergies between different policy areas but without losing sight of overriding development objectives; how to sustain the impact of development efforts while moving into uncharted

territories with new partners; and how to ensure that given the current pressures on global public finance, agreed development objectives and targets can still be met. The 2010 UN Millennium Development Goals Conference will provide a first test of how well-prepared the world is to handle these challenges.

Whither ACP-EU relations?

Relations between the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group and the EU, too, are at a crossroads. The Lisbon Treaty will introduce major institutional reforms in EU external action that are expected to bring greater coherence between development and non-development policies. Yet so far EU member states have been tentative to further strengthen the European consensus and policy coherence for development and to move forward on the European division of labour. Likewise, the ACP Group is attempting to redefine itself as a relevant player, leveraging its strengths as a grouping of 79 countries to navigate the changing international environment. At the same time, a fundamental discussion seems to be needed on the added-value of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, in order to enable all partners to ensure its continuing relevance and coherence with new policy frameworks, such as the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and other emerging regional strategies.

The *Annual Report 2009* highlights the challenges ECDPM faces as it works to strengthen debate on a more inclusive international cooperation agenda. It describes the Centre's role as an interlocutor between Europe and some of the world's least developed regions, highlighting how we support some of the key policy processes that underpin ACP-EU relations: economic and trade cooperation, governance, development effectiveness, regional integration and the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, including the JAES partnerships on peace and security and migration and mobility.

To download the Annual Report 2009, visit www.ecdpm.org/ar09

Programme Highlights



EU cooperation post-Lisbon Treaty

With the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty imminent, ECDPM invested considerable energy in latter 2009 in analysing the development policy implications of EU institutional reform for the ACP and facilitating dialogue on the way forward. The Development Policy and International Relations (DPIR) programme received several requests to facilitate briefings for EU senior officials about the Lisbon Treaty, particularly with regard to the institutional rearrangements needed to realise the goals set out in this treaty. In the aftermath of the treaty's coming into force, ECDPM continued to contribute to broad public debate on its likely impact on the effectiveness of EU development cooperation, drawing attention to the need for greater policy coherence for development (PCD) across all areas of EU external action. The DPIR team also provided substantive input to the European Commission's 2009 PCD report and formulated a methodology for assessing PCD and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Several recommendations on improving institutional arrangements for PCD were adopted by the European Council and individual member states.

Supporting the Joint Africa-EU Strategy

In addition to its role in informing about the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (www.europafrika.net), ECDPM has, over the years, provided timely and independent analysis of the JAES for both African and EU actors. Stakeholders on both sides welcomed this input as they prepared to negotiate the second JAES action plan in 2009. A direct result of ECDPM's engagement was the start of renewed dialogue among African and European civil society actors after a period of misunderstanding and stalemate.

'Many thanks to you for the excellent presentation [on the JAES] and guidance during your visit in Helsinki earlier this week. For me it was most useful and I will certainly make use of your presentation in future,' an EU official wrote.



An honest broker in the EPA negotiations

In a bid to help address the growing rift between the European Commission and ACP countries regarding the Economic Partnership Agreements, ECDPM published *Contentious Issues in the Interim EPAs: Potential Flexibility in the Negotiations*. This paper provides an accessible and non-partisan overview of some of the main technical outcomes and issues in the debate. The work was made possible by the excellent relations and trust that ECDPM has established with a range of stakeholders on both sides of the negotiations. The Trade programme further conducted a complementary analysis of implications of the global financial crisis for the EPA process to offer guidance on appropriate policy responses.

This body of work, which was widely disseminated and discussed by European and African stakeholders, contributed to a better understanding of the positions of the various actors and a broader range of options for moving forward. It thus helped to temper some of the tension among the parties and restored a measure of confidence in the EPA discussions.

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.

KEY PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR WORK

Non-partisanship: ECDPM acts as an independent broker to facilitate the non-partisan development of knowledge, viable ideas, options and solutions by policymakers.

Long-term engagement: The timeline of each ECDPM programme spans several years, in sync with the policy processes that we closely follow. This enables us to respond to new priorities, demands and funding opportunities.

Emphasis on the 'how' questions: ECDPM takes a practical approach, combining experiences at the national and regional levels with policy-oriented analysis to enhance their relevance to policymakers.

Strategic partnerships, networking and institutional development: ECDPM systematically seeks out new alliances in order to pool resources and capacities, build ownership and achieve greater impact.

Inclusiveness and bridge-building: We incorporate different communities in our work, with a view to promoting open communication, democratic principles and full transparency of roles.

Internal learning: It is crucial for ECDPM not only to be aware of its positioning, strengths and weaknesses, but also to keep improving.

2009 - 2010

A promising start to South-North networking on trade

The University of Pavia, the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and ECDPM co-founded a network (www.acp-eu-trade.org/sn2) that brings together 12 universities and policy-oriented institutions in Europe and Africa. With financial support from the ACP-EU Cooperation Programme in Higher Education (EDULINK), the three organisations then helped to set up the Trade and Development Training, Research and Policy Network (TDNet). Over a three-year period, TDNet will work to develop a cadre of ACP professionals able to provide sound policy advice on trade and development matters.

'I just want to compliment your esteemed organization for the job it is doing in generating and disseminating updated, thought provoking, detailed and comprehensive research and literature on trade issues, especially in relation to the developing world and the EPAs. These [research papers and reports] are an asset to people like me ... who are working day in and day out on trade issues.'

ACP Ministry of Trade and Industry official

What our partners say

'It is important to take African perspectives to global negotiations like on the EPAs where we were able to talk directly with EU Council members. ECDPM's contacts allowed us to get the right people to participate.'

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Director SAIIA

Enhancing EU approaches to governance

ECDPM's Governance team helped to persuade strategic partners in Europe and the ACP to take a more critical and analytical stance in their approaches to governance. The backdrop was implementation of the European Commission's € 2.7 billion *Governance Initiative*, which was set up in 2006 on the basis of European Council Conclusions requesting creation of 'incentives for reform'. However, uncertainties underlying the initiative remained, such as how external actors can incentivise reforms and which governance dimensions matter most for development. ECDPM's Governance programme proposed a thorough, empirical and inclusive review and, through networking and country case assessments, shared findings and reflections on the gap between the aims of the initiative and its real-life implementation challenges. EU member states brought these reflections and perspectives to the EDF Committee responsible for reviewing the initiative, achieving a more constructive and critical evaluation process. According to stakeholders, ECDPM's input helped to emphasise the need for donors to engage more and better with domestic actors – including strengthening capacities to assess and analyse governance processes and making better use of available research and assessments. Ultimately, these combined efforts resulted in sharpened Council Conclusions on support to democratic governance (May 2009).



Supporting pan-African dialogue on governance and accountability

As part of its support to strengthen accountability mechanisms at the pan-African level, ECDPM and the Africa Governance Institute (Dakar) jointly facilitated the first open workshop with African actors and stakeholders on the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

'This was the frankest discussion on the APRM that I have attended since I got involved in the process. I hope we can sustain this debate for the sake of progress on our continent', said a former member of the APRM panel.

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 has a core staff of 48 employees, most of whom are based at the head office in Maastricht. Nine staff members operate out of ECDPM's Brussels office. Centre staff represents 21 nationalities, 14 of which are from Europe. Other nationalities are Algerian, Ethiopian, Kenyan, Mauritanian, Mauritian, Nigerian and Ugandan. Nearly two-thirds of Centre employees are women. ECDPM has 26 programme staff and five programme associates, along with five research fellows, who collaborate closely with the Centre but are not on the payroll. It has 22 full-time and part-time support positions, including technical and communications support, human resources management and administration.

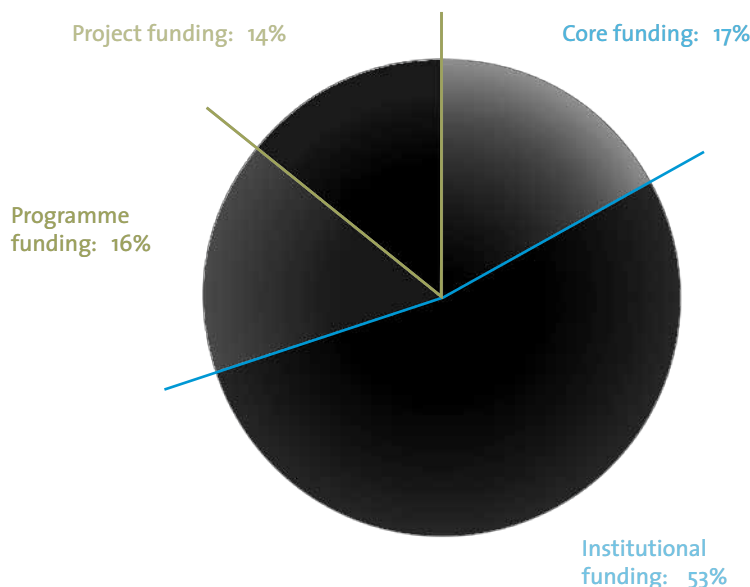
Knowledge management and communication

ECDPM's substantial past investments to create an efficient knowledge management infrastructure continued to pay off in 2009, as reflected in the growing readership of the *Weekly Compass* e-newsletter and bulletin and the high quality and wide application of other Centre information products. In addition, the Knowledge Management unit supported European Commission work in the area of technical cooperation for capacity development, and helped to link this with related EU-level policy innovations during the Czech and Swedish EU presidencies.

Knowledge networking included contributions to two established platforms: the 'Pelican Initiative', an online forum aiming to deepen learning on conceptual and methodological issues related to dialogue processes and joint learning; and Capacity.org, a quarterly journal and web portal on capacity development for practitioners co-produced with the UNDP and the Dutch organisations SNV and ICCO. ECDPM became a founding editorial partner of the *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*, a new peer-reviewed, community-based journal published by Routledge. In other knowledge-related activities, staff joined the Netherlands-based Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) in organising a sector-wide consultation on the future of development cooperation and responded to external demands to enhance sharing and learning on capacity and institutional development.



Financial Report



Some 86% of ECDPM's income in 2009 came from multi-annual institutional funding agreements and programmes with the governments of the Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and Portugal. The rest was earned through project work. The Netherlands was the

largest institutional donor, providing 10 million for the 2007–11 period. However, with the expected realignment of policy priorities by the new EU and ACP leadership and key bilateral donors in 2010, ECDPM resource mobilisation policy will continue to be based on a diligent and strategic investment of seed money.

Partnerships

The Centre followed a twin-track approach to partnership development in 2009: building strategic alliances with leading centres of excellence in the South to enhance the quality of our analysis and process facilitation work; and investing in long-term partnerships to build the capacities of Southern organisations to engage in international relations, particularly with the EU. In Africa, ECDPM strengthened its collaboration with the African Union Commission – a key institutional partner – and enhanced its joint programmes on trade, governance and EU-Africa relations with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).

Continuing its tradition of support to successive EU presidencies, ECDPM embarked on multi-faceted collaboration with the Swedish EU Presidency in the second half of 2009. This featured regular dialogue in Stockholm and Brussels with staff of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish Permanent Representation to the European Union, and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). Key items on the presidency agenda were the JAES, policy coherence for development (PCD), governance and preparation and facilitation of the European Development Days in Stockholm.

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