

Development Compatibility of EPAs?

A critical civil society review of the EU-ACP negotiations on Regional Free Trade Agreements

Since the suspension of the WTO negotiations for the conclusion of the „Doha Development Round“ in July 2006 attention has shifted to bilateral and regional trade agreements. The EU is concentrating on the current „Economic Partnership Agreements“ (EPAs) with 78 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP Group). The declared goal of these negotiations are six regional WTO-compatible Free Trade Agreements with an ambitious agenda to overcome existing trade barriers and to foster development.

The negotiations, to be concluded by the end of 2007, have entered their decisive phase as concrete draft texts are presently being discussed in most of the six regional groupings. At the same time critical voices in ACP states pointing out the serious risks of EPAs in their present form are growing louder by the day. Untimely reciprocal liberalisation of market access, services, investments and public procurement is said to be undermining development goals and targets in the ACP states. Therefore the German Government holding the EU presidency in the first half of 2007 will be challenged in a special way to influence the shaping of EPAs so that they live up to the stated claim of being instruments of development.

In parallel to the presently initiated official review process of the state of negotiations this conference undertakes a critical review of the envisaged EPAs from a civil society perspective. Together with international guests from Africa and the EU we intend making a critical assessment to which degree EPAs correspond to the development principles enshrined in the Cotonou framework and to the development needs of mostly structurally weak and vulnerable ACP states.

The conference focuses on three particular problem areas of EPAs. (1) Are EPAs endangering food sovereignty and rural development of mostly agrarian oriented ACP states? (2) Are EPAs in their current form undermining autonomous initiatives of regional integration? (3) What effects are to be expected from a broad liberalisation agenda including the so called „new issues“ of investments, competition and public procurement? These are the main issues that civil society representatives from the ACP and Europe together with political decision makers and academics are going to confront and critically evaluate.

Venue and Directions

Gustav-Stresemann-Institut
Langer Grabenweg 68
D-53175 Bonn
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We are quick to reach and easy to find ...

... by car

Right side of Rhine:

A 3, until motorway-crossing Bonn/Siegburg
A 560, Bonn until motorway-crossing St. Augustin
A 59, Bonn-Bad Godesberg until motorway-crossing Bonn-Ost (42)
A 562 until exit Rhineaue, then turn left;
next traffic-light: turn right into Heinemann Strasse
100 m after next traffic-light: U-turn left, parking after
100 m on the right

Left side of Rhine:

A 61, until motorway-crossing Meckenheim
A 565, direction Bonn
Exit Bonn-Poppelsdorf, direction Bad Godesberg (B9)
At traffic-lights right before Underground-station "Max-Löbner-Strasse": turn left into Max-Löbner-Straße until end, then turn left

... by public transport

From Bonn central-station:

U-Bahn Line (underground/tram number) 16 or 63,
direction Bad Godesberg,
leave tram at "Max-Löbner-Straße",
walk down "Max-Löbner-Straße" to the end.
(Between Bonn central station and Bonn-Bad Godesberg trams
commute every 7 minutes; tram-number 16 and 63).

From ICE-Station Siegburg/Bonn:

U/tram-line 66, direction Bonn/Bad Honnef
leave tram at station "Robert-Schuman-Platz"

... by plane

From airport Cologne/Bonn:

bus No. 670 until "Hauptbahnhof" (central station)
From Bonn central-station: see above

International Conference 5 October, 2006

Gustav-Stresemann-Institut, Bonn



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International Conference

5 OCTOBER, 2006

Programme

9.30 Welcome and introduction

Theo Kneifel, KASA

10.00 **I. Moving ahead?**

State of play and prospects of EPA negotiations

Vincent Roza, ECDPM, Maastricht

Marc Maes, 11.11.11, Belgien

11.00 Coffee | Tea Break

11.15 **II. Overcoming rural poverty through free trade?**

The impact of reciprocal liberalisation on food sovereignty and rural development

Sebastian Graf von Keyserlingk, BMELV

Kingsley Ofei-Nkansah, GAWU, Ghana

Rudolf Buntzel, EED

Chair: *Marita Wiggerthale*, Oxfam

13.00 Lunch

14.00 **III. How fundamental is ownership?**

Policy space between regional integration and interregional market liberalisation

Alexis Valqui, BMZ, Berlin

Malcolm Damon, Economic Justice Network of

FOCCISA, Südafrika

Douglas Kivumbi, SEATINI, Uganda

Chair: *Dieter Simon*, KOSA, Bielefeld

15.30 Coffee | Tea Break

15.45 **IV. No recipe for development?**

Impact of the liberalisation of investments and services in an EPA-framework

Gyekye Tanoh, Third World Network, Ghana

Miriam vander Stichele, SOMO, Niederlande

n.n., ACP-Ambassador Malawi, Brussels

Chair: *Klaus Schilder*, WEED

17.15 **Summing up**

Michael Frein, EED

17.30 Conclusion of the Conference



Registration and Fees

Please register as soon as possible, but at the latest by 1. October, 2006.

For registration please send an e-mail to nad.bonn@netzwerkafrika.de, giving your full name, address, e-mail, phone number and the name of your organisation. Please indicate if you need an accomodation.

The registration fee is 20 Euro. The fee includes the costs of a meal.

Fees can be paid during the conference.

Further Information

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- World Economy, Ecology & Development (WEED)
- StopEPA-Campaign (www.stopepa.de, www.stopepa.org)