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EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY

European Development Fund: Implementation and budgetisation

Slow disbursements

The 11 billion euro figure that is generally referred to when talking about remaining or unused funds under the EDF can be split into two categories:

- 1) around 2.5 billion euro of “not yet committed funds” that were recently transferred to the new 9th EDF. Out of that amount, 1.7 billion is composed of the national envelopes of countries in crisis that are presently frozen.
- 2) around 8.5 billion of “outstanding payments” resulting from a very slow implementation of the EDF in general.

Figures provided in the last report of the Court of Auditors¹ (for the budgetary year 2001) show that at the end of 2001, 73% of the 8th EDF, 94% of 7th EDF and 95.6 % of 6th EDF were committed. At the end of 2001 the total amount still to be committed from the three funds amounted 4.6 billion euros.

At the same date, total outstanding payments for the three EDFs amounted to 8.47 billion. A great part of outstanding payments are related to on-going or not yet started multi-annual programmes and are a normal feature of EDF rolling programming. The most problematic outstanding payments (also called dormant funds) are those for which no transaction has been made since 1997; such funds amounted to 1.4 billion at the end of 2002. According to the Commission, the utilisation of dormant funds for another purpose than the original project to which they were allocated is a complex administrative and political procedure. Funds must first be de-committed, a process that requires a serious analysis of the projects and programmes concerned to judge whether it is still valuable or not to carry them on. For re-commitment, the partner country participates in the decision, the funds that were earmarked for a specific country do not go back to the global EDF pot.

The slow rate of EDF implementation has been subject to numerous criticisms from the side of the Court of Auditors in the last years and the Commission has responded that it expects that the deconcentration process, the simplification of instruments and the new EDF regulation will help to solve the problem. The Commission also explains the situation by a general lack of means and capacities at the level of ACP states' institutions and ministries, the reason why institution-building is part of its development priorities. The National Authorising Officers from ACP states, meeting in Brussels in May 2003, recognized a lack of capacities at their level but also pointed out the shortcomings at the level of EC procedures and the fact that the multiple institutional and development cooperation reforms within the EC had contributed to the slow disbursement rate of EDF in the last years.

Where are the funds going?

¹ Website of the Court of Auditors : [Hhttp://www.eca.eu.int/EN/menu.htm](http://www.eca.eu.int/EN/menu.htm)H

According to figures provided orally by the European Commission to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly standing committee dealing with EDF matters (meeting on 10 July), there are three main categories in the 9th EDF:

- 10 billion for long term development, for the financing of the national indicative programmes
- 2.2 billion for the investment facility (European Investment Bank)
- 1.3 billion for regional cooperation (in fact, it has been increased to 1.5 billion after a Council decision)

Under the 1.5 billion regional envelope, the EC distinguishes between an envelope of 700 million that is allocated to the Regional Indicative Programmes and an envelope of 800 million that can be used in complementarity to programmable aid and has an “**all ACP**” coverage. It can be seen as a flexible complement to what is done at the national and regional levels.

Examples of use:

- the **HIPC** initiative financed at the level of 1.5 billion in part from this flexible envelope and in part from previous EDFs
- Support to the World Health Organisation and to the UNFPA
- Disarmament in the Great Lakes region (administered by WB)
- Contribution to the **Global Fund for the fight against Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis** (60 million from EDF in 2003 but might increase to 130 or 150 million euro in the future)

For the future use of this envelope, some ideas are under discussion, such as an African Peace Keeping capacity under the African Union (*see article below*).

The creation of a new **EU Water Fund** was suggested by the EC in a recent “non paper”. The idea is to allocate 1 billion euro to that fund from EDF resources.

For this initiative, the intention is not to tap in the flexible envelope but to draw on the 1 billion envelope under the 9th EDF that has been set aside by Member States and that shall be released on the basis of performance review under the Cotonou Agreement’s mid-term review. According to the EC, the MS will not accept to release that money to finance “business as usual” and could be more interested in financing the Water Fund. Member States and the EC committed themselves to support a major water initiative at the Johannesburg Summit.

The Development Council (19-20 May) stated on the Water Fund proposal that it is “*firmly convinced that water is central to sustainable development (...)*”, but “*(...) incites the Commission to propose specific modalities to be discussed by the relevant EU Council Bodies and by the ACP-EC Council of Ministers*”. EuropeAid expects to present a new paper at the Council of November.

Several NGOs discussed the issue with the Commission on behalf of the Cotonou Monitoring Group and suggested to the EC that a meeting should be organised in October on that issue. These NGOs are now in the process of **collecting NGOs views and suggestions on the EU Water Fund (or Facility)**. Contacts should be taken with water@bothends.org as the organisation Both Ends in the Netherlands will coordinate the NGO work on that issue.

Why is the EC in favour of the budgetisation of the EDF?

The EDF budgetisation means that the EDF would enter into the annual Community Budget and would be part of the new 2007-2012 Financial Perspectives of the EU that will be adopted at the end of 2005. The EDF exists since 1958 as a separate Fund from the Community budget. With the growing importance of cooperation with other regions of the world after 1980, two parallel systems of funding Development aid and External cooperation have developed with different approaches and rules. Several attempts were made by the EC in the past (since 1973) to budgetise the EDF but, so far, there was no consensus on the issue on the side of Member States.

Now, the Commission judges that a number of developments are in favour of EDF budgetisation and that it is the right time to make a serious proposal in that view.

- The EDF system has several weaknesses: it necessitates hard negotiations between MS for partition / several EDF funds are functioning in parallel / however EDF are time bounded their implementation has no time limit / being outside the budget, the EDF is also outside Parliamentary control (except through ex-post discharge)
- The working group of the Convention on External Action was in favour of budgetisation provided it increases efficiency and does not affect the total amount available;
- A new Financial perspective will soon be adopted, if budgetisation does not occur now it will be postponed until 2012;
- The enlargement to 10 new countries is a major factor; it will be easier to get the support of the new member states for the EDF if it is integrated in their global contribution to the Community Budget;
- Budgetisation fits well into the Relex reform and the deconcentration process, it will simplify the work of delegations that have presently to deal with two different systems.

A communication on the budgetisation of EDF is under preparation in DG Development and should be ready by the end of September. The issue deserves special attention on the side of NGOs as the EDF is the main funding instrument of EU Development Policy and its budgetisation might have huge consequences on the EU Development budget and funding instruments in the future. The issue will be on the agenda of the Cotonou Monitoring Group in future (and of the new Cotonou Working Group of CONCORD once it will be created), but this issue also relates to many other on-going debates such as the Convention and the IGC, the future Financial perspectives and the rationalisation of EU aid instruments.

The "non-paper" on the Water Fund can be found at:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/prodi/pdf/water_paper_en.pdf.

Court of Auditors website: <http://www.eca.eu.int/EN/menu.htm>

Communication on Governance

DG Development is in the process of preparing a Communication on Governance and Development aiming at defining practical ways to:

- build capacity for governance and increase the partner countries' ownership in the formulation of the relevant reform programs
- ensure synergies and coherence between the different EC and EU policies and instruments
- reinforce co-ordination and complementarity between donors, as well as between donors' priorities and partner countries' agendas using the political dialogue to integrate partner country-owned processes in the EC policy approach.

The Communication will include case studies on administrative, economic and political governance.

CONCORD has been consulted on the first outline of the Communication in July and made some inputs while asking to be consulted again at a later stage when the draft communication will be available.

The outline of the Communication and the first inputs from CONCORD are available from Ester Asin at CONCORD secretariat: easin@concordeurope.org

EU SECTORAL POLICIES

EU-ACP trade negotiations: report from the Joint Parliamentary Assembly standing committee meeting

The ACP-EU JPA Committee on economic development, finance and trade met on 10 July in Brussels. The Committee approved the co-chairs Jean Pierre Lekoba (Republic of Congo) and Richard Howitt and agreed on its work programme.

The report of Harlem Desir and Sharon Hay Webster on *EPAs: Difficulties and Perspectives* highlights major concerns of ACP countries regarding poverty reduction and addresses areas of disagreement and divergence between ACP states and the EU, as well as the situation of LDCs and pressing issue of commodities.

Sharon Webster explained that the private sector involvement in the sugar sector has failed in Jamaica, and the government had to come in to take over again. It is also evident that ACP states will not have the necessary funds to become competitive given their already weak situation under current preferential trade agreements.

Ambassador Guenesse stated that unless ACP countries have built sufficient capacity to launch economic structural transformation, trade liberalisation will not result in poverty reduction. The need of sequencing implies that as a first step, ACP economies need to become competitive before they can benefit from opening up their markets. Among the concrete suggestions he made is the appeal to the EU to strive for a EU-ACP common position prior to Cancun on WTO compatibility and modification of rules on regional free trade agreements (article 24).

Mr Feustel from DG Trade considered the situation less dramatic, and that concerns raised by the ACP side will be taken into account. Yet, the Commission still refuses to address the list of issues identified by the ACP group in the all-ACP phase of the negotiations stating that concrete proposals can only be discussed in the regional groupings. He referred to EPAs as very ambitious project aiming at enlarging ACP markets and addressing constraints on investment and need for stable transparent framework. Additional financial support is considered "unreasonable" at this stage given the lack of good projects presented under current funds available.

Sheila Page from the ODI asked what is most important to all ACP states. The opening up of ACP markets does not necessitate negotiations since this could be done unilaterally by the ACP governments. Most important to all ACP states is the erosion of preferences and falling commodity prices (coffee and cotton), for which compensatory measures are urgently needed. Services could be another potential interest to all-ACP countries in negotiations with the EU. She strongly advised ACP countries not to rush into agreements by September, but to wait for decisions made in Cancun. Based on the post-Cancun situation, ACP countries should carefully re-calculate and re-think their own interest and offers they'll put forward at the negotiation table.

Responding to questions and concerns raised from the floor, Mr Feustel stated that there is no alternative to the erosion of preferences; this is a matter of fact and goes beyond the ECs decision-making power. Given current trends in international trade, he considers that there is no alternative to EPAs. According to Mr Feustel, the urgency and time pressure need to be accepted and the only way forward is to face the challenges and to ensure good results, such as strengthening supply capacity and participation in new markets.

Corporate Social Responsibility : EU CSR Forum reaches halfway point ; Council conclusions on promoting core labour standards

A plenary meeting of the EU Multi-stakeholder Forum on CSR was held on 15 July to discuss the progress of the Forum at its halfway point. Participating NGOs met prior to the meeting to evaluate progress, noting that while the quality of the meetings has improved, the Forum has progressed further on its first objective, exchanging experience and good practice, than on its second objective, establishing a common EU approach and identifying areas for additional EU action. NGOs remain concerned that the Forum touches only upon companies that are leaders in CSR, and does not address those companies which behave irresponsibly.

The Forum continues with two Roundtable meetings in September. The meeting on Development aspects on 29-30 September will focus on two areas, the textile/garments/footwear sectors and the extractive industries, the latter to include a case study on financial transparency and the Publish What You Pay campaign. NGOs will meet again on 1 October to discuss their strategy in the Forum. The next plenary meeting of the Forum will take place on 13 November and will discuss the findings of the Forum with regards to the drivers, success factors, and obstacles to spreading CSR. The final report to the Commission in mid-2004 will include these findings, as well as recommendations for individual actions from each stakeholder group, collaborative actions, and actions for the EU on CSR.

On 21 July, the Council adopted its conclusions on the July 2001 Commission Communication on Promoting Core Labour Standards. The Council underlines *"the growing public perception that an equitable global economic system should also promote social development and fundamental human rights."* With regards to CSR, it states: *"The respect and promotion of core labour standards by the private sector is a key element of the European approach to CSR. CSR practices and tools should, inter alia, build on the fundamental ILO Conventions, ILO Tripartite Declarations and on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, as minimum common standards of reference."*

Among the recommendations are closer cooperation between the ILO and the WTO, including eventual observer status for the ILO at the WTO; increased use of Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) incentives to promote the standards; better integration of core labour standards and social governance into the drafting of Country Strategy Papers accompanied by capacity building to these ends in developing countries; the examination in international fora of application of the standards in Export Processing Zones; and stimulation by the EU of compliance with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

For more information contact eupolicy@cidse.org.

EU HUMANITARIAN AID POLICY

Signature of the new FPA by NGOs could take place at the ECHO partners meeting in November

The adoption of the new FPA by the European Commission is set to take place on October 1, and will enter into force on 1 January 2004. Pending satisfactory completion of their files, NGO partners will be able to sign the new Agreement at the ECHO Partners Meeting on 6-7 November.

ECHO expects that some 150 of the 220 current partners will be fully compliant with the selection criteria and ready to sign the new FPA in the first wave, during the Annual General Meeting. Also at this time, 10-15 accession country NGOs and selected FPA "candidates" will sign. The second wave for old partners not having entered in the first wave and new applicants will start after the AGM. It will be possible at that stage to use the Electronic

Application form (APPEL) opened to all applicants. This second wave will be ongoing, and signatures will take place on a rolling basis as applicants become able to meet the criteria.

The FPA revision process is now drawing to a close! One of the last meetings of the FPA Watch Group took place on 22 July; the minutes will be available on the VOICE webpage (www.ngovoice.org) and a final meeting is envisaged for September.

EU RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

EU-Africa Dialogue: Communication offers vision of enhanced dialogue

Ahead of the African Union summit in Maputo, Mozambique on 10-12 July, the Commission issued a Communication on the EU-Africa Dialogue, intended to confirm its willingness to develop and strengthen its dialogue with Africa and its new political institutions, despite postponement of the Lisbon summit in April. The document assesses the progress of the dialogue since 2000 and outlines future options for an operational EU-Africa Agenda.

The Communication lists three objectives of the dialogue: 1) strengthening EU-Africa relations in the new pan-African context; 2) eradicating poverty and implementing international development commitments; 3) promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In this context, priorities include preventing conflicts and peace building; fostering stability through rebuilding functional governmental structures and encouraging viable regional structures; and addressing political issues such as regional integration and trade, debt, health and food security.

The Commission is eager to support the African Union as a regional counterpart, and NEPAD (the New Partnership for African Development), as the two are perceived to be a strong statement of African “ownership” of its development. Recognising that the EU’s three partnerships with Africa (ACP, MEDA and South Africa) are a potential obstacle to pan-African initiatives, the Communication pledges to: 1) facilitate and **encourage intra-African trade through a review of the impact of all trade-related instruments**; 2) **broaden eligibility criteria for contract procurement** to the entire continent when the relevant legal bases are renewed; 3) prepare for the possibility of pooling resources on issues such as a **continent-wide Facility for peace support operations**. Broader efforts to increase aid effectiveness in Africa already underway will be addressed in the Commission’s upcoming study on budgetisation of the EDF.

The Communication then assesses progress made and outlines possible future steps in each of the eight priority areas of the EU-Africa dialogue. Points of note:

1) *Human rights, democracy and good governance*: the Commission communication on integrating migration issues into EU relations with third countries is said to offer scope for the **launch of an EU-Africa dialogue on migration**. Main suggestions for topics to be covered are the contribution of remittances, investments, and skills by migrants residing in the EU and returning migrants to their country of origin.

2) *Prevention and settlement of conflicts*: the role of natural resources in driving conflicts is acknowledged, and it is suggested that **measures to improve governance of natural resources be included in the dialogue on conflict prevention**.

3) *Food security*: future dialogue should focus more on political dimensions like access to productive resources and a review of fisheries, trade and environmental policy that impact food security.

4) *HIV/AIDS and other pandemics*: discussion are slated to continue on the need for a specific health fund for Africa and the conversion of part of Africa’s debt into a programme on HIV/AIDS and poverty reduction.

5) *Environment*: Two areas require particular attention in the follow-up to Johannesburg: the EU Initiatives for Water and Energy, and the consolidation of an African Action Plan.

6) *Regional integration and trade*: The EU is ready to accelerate preparations for negotiations with ACP regional groupings on Economic and Partnership Agreements. 7) *External debt*: It has so far not been possible to reach a common understanding on a joint report on the debt crisis in Africa and its impact on the continent's development prospects. In the mean time, the Commission has decided to finance a **study investigating the sustainability of the HIPC initiative and the arguments in favour / against the options for further debt relief**.

8) *Return of stolen cultural goods*: The Commission is working on an inventory of all relevant ongoing cooperation activities to inform concrete future proposals.

Finally, the Communication focuses on how Africans and Europeans should organise their dialogue more efficiently in the future, including how institutional ties can be developed between the EC and the AU Commission. The document also restates the EU's intention to "pursue discussions with its African counterparts in order to ensure the holding of the (Lisbon) Summit at its earliest possible date."

On 21 July, the **Council** adopted **conclusions on EU-Africa relations** that emphasise the priority of peace and security, in particular inviting the Commission to present **proposals on the setting up of a peace support operation facility** as requested by AU Heads of State in Maputo. The Council will draw conclusions on the Communication on EU-Africa dialogue at a later stage.

For full text of the Communication:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2003/com2003_0316en01.pdf (EN) or
http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/fr/com/cnc/2003/com2003_0316fr01.pdf (FR)

See also the CIDSE-Caritas Europa-Pax Christi position paper, *From Cairo to Lisbon: The EU and Africa Working Together for a New Partnership* (January 2003)

http://www.cidse.org/en/cacp/eu_africa.html (EN, FR, DE)

Iraq : what are the EC intentions ?

Following the latest External relations council meeting:

2. The Council recalled that UNSCR 1483 supported the formation of an Iraqi interim administration, and expressed its confidence that the United Nations, in particular through the activity of the UNSG's Special Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello, will continue to make an important contribution to post-conflict nation building in Iraq. It reiterated the Union's readiness to support the UN Special Representative in the fulfillment of this task.

4. The Council expressed its appreciation for the results of the Donors' Consultative Meeting hosted by UNDP last 24 June. It is important that the EU will play an important role in all multilateral efforts with a view to the Donors' Conference scheduled to take place next fall.

5. The Council welcomed the constructive suggestions made by the Commission, including those aiming to ensure the establishment of an adequate multilateral umbrella for contributions by the international community to the reconstruction effort.

6. The Council warmly encouraged the Commission, in liaison with the High Representative, to play a full role in this multilateral planning process. It also urged close cooperation between the UNSG's Special Representative and the Commission, as well as coordination with other donors, and relevant institutions on the ground, in order to maximise the impact of the EU resources involved in the reconstruction process.

The *European Voice* has reported that the EU may end up "footing a sizeable bill for Iraq's reconstruction." According to the article, Member States have given the Commission the go-ahead to develop proposals on the EU's role, to be discussed at the end of September ahead of an international donors' conference in mid-October. Preliminary indications suggest that priority areas would be education, health and the building of political institutions. EU officials, in cooperation with the World Bank, are currently evaluating the country's

needs; however, it is too early to estimate the EU's total contribution. An official is quoted as saying this would be less than the EU's 2002 pledge for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, which stands at €1 billion over 5 years. Any funding decision in favour of Iraq might of course have serious consequences on the External Relations Budget 2004.

Cuba: Fidel Castro rejects EU aid for the sake of Cuba's dignity

At the end of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro stated in a speech that he was ready to renounce aid from the EU for the sake of Cuba's dignity. He attacked the EU for arrogance and drunken euro-narcissism and illusions about pursuing the political dialogue. In a press release the European Commission deplored Castro's declaration calling for the rejection of EU aid. No official communication was received from the Cuban authorities until now and the EU stressed its will to continue to support Cuba's population.

The Commission adopts a programme of 100 million euro in support to the Palestinian territories

Following the recent positive developments in the Palestinian Territories and the withdrawal of IDF forces from parts of the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem, the European Commission is urgently delivering a €100 million package of financial assistance to support the implementation of the Road Map for Peace. A €30 million emergency programme to rebuild essential services; €40 million from the new Reform Support Instrument (see *EU News 6*) will boost the economy by paying Palestinian Authority arrears to Small and Medium sized Enterprises. A total of €30 million in loans for SMEs will help relaunch this sector and create employment.

Source DG RELEX website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/w29/1#1

2003 country strategy for Albania

The recently adopted 2003 annual programme for EC support to Albania concentrates on fighting organised crime (20 million euro), public administration (8 million euro), developing the economy (10 million) and supporting local communities (7.5 million) and democracy (1 million). The first component of the programme will contribute to the establishment of rule of law, through a two-pronged approach: a) investments in basic infrastructure such as the renovation of two courts of appeal (Korça and Vlora) and the construction of a serious crimes court in Tirana; and b) institution building and training. Here the focus is on training of court administrators, improving police asset management, introducing a system of pre-screening of asylum seekers and migrants and improving border controls.

The 8.5 million allocated to the support to local communities and democracy seems quite limited in comparison to the huge programme on the fight against crime.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/albania/index.htm

2003 country strategy for Moldova

With a total budget of € 25 million, the Tacis Action programme for Moldova makes the European Commission one of the largest single donors in Moldova with a total contribution from 1991 to 2003 of € 238 million. The Tacis Action Programme is part of a total of € 50 million earmarked for Moldova in 2003, including: € 25 million for the National Tacis Programme, € 10 million for macroeconomic financial assistance, € 10 million under the food security programme and € 5 million from Tacis regional programmes.

The package, funded from the 2003 Tacis budget and valid for 2003-2004, focuses on three areas of co-operation: institutional, legal and administrative reform; support to the private sector and economic development and; support in addressing the social consequences of transition. As regards the social consequences of transition, the programme will focus on the development of support mechanisms for poor families and children and on health management. http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/moldova/intro/index.htm

EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Ivory Coast: €30 million for emergency rehabilitation programme

The estimated three-year programme has five specific objectives:

- to facilitate and support the implementation of the Government's programme of national reconciliation (€6 million);
- to contribute to the implementation of initiatives to calm tension and achieve reconciliation at national level and within communities (€1.5 million);
- to facilitate and support the demobilisation process and the economic and social reintegration of combatants (€5 million);
- to encourage a rapid process of economic and social rehabilitation of those affected and/or displaced people and contribute to the physical rehabilitation of basic infrastructure and housing (€5 million);
- to help ensure that health facilities in the affected areas, mainly in the North and West, have basic equipment and are supplied with essential medicines (€5 million).

As a three-year rehabilitation programme financed with EDF money, the programme will be managed by EuropeAid in cooperation with the delegation in Ivory Coast. The programme is at the stage of identification of concrete activities to be undertaken. Work on the finalisation of the 9th EDF cooperation strategy for the period 2003-2007, suspended after the 19 September crisis, will begin again with a view to signing the national indicative programme at the end of this year.

50 million euros for NGO Food Aid and Food Security projects via EuronAid in 2003

The European Commission has awarded a grant of 50 million euros to EuronAid for the implementation of the Action entitled '2003 Food Aid and Food Security programmes through NGOs via EuronAid'.

The Contract comes into effect immediately and the Action's implementation period, as laid down by the Contract, is 42 months.

In view of implementing this new contract, members of EuronAid and implementing partners are reminded of the necessity of signing the revised Cooperation & Service Contract and are invited to contact the [NGO Project Support Team](#) for more information. Source EuronAid website: http://www.euronaid.nl/menu_latest_uk.htm

NEWS FROM THE NETWORKS

NEWS FROM APRODEV

The report, "**No Security without Food Security, no Food Security without Gender Equality**" from September 2002 Aprodev GOOD's conference is now available from the secretariat of Aprodev and will soon be posted on the website: www.aprodev.net. The objective of the conference was to examine the links between trade, gender and food security and to use these new insights to find ways to ensure the human right to food security. How gender affects food insecurity and the gender impact of trade have both been topics of research and discussion but it is a new challenge to identify and attempt to influence the links between all three themes.

Christian Aid has just published a book, "**Facing Up to the Storm, How local communities can cope with Disaster: Lessons from Orissa and Gujarat**". The book is co-authored by Mary Todd who worked with the Christian Aid Emergencies Team and Tom Palakudiyil who is their Country Representative in India. The book draws on lessons from

work carried out by, amongst others, ACT partner CASA. The book shows how community based disaster management is key to reducing deaths and limiting the damage to livelihoods following disasters. By using detailed case studies it enables the practitioner to clearly understand how community based disaster management programmes can be very effective. You can access the book and download it from <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/storm>

NEWS FROM CIDSE & CARITAS EUROPA

Caritas Europa has called on the EU to face up to its responsibilities and **request decisive political and military action in Liberia** from the international community, in a 24 July letter addressed to Commission President Romano Prodi, External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten, and High Representative for Common Foreign & Security Policy Javier Solana. For more information, contact amazze@caritas-europa.org.

CIDSE and Caritas Internationalis made a **statement** recommending concrete steps to strengthen **international economic governance** at the General Segment meeting on Financing for Development (16 July) during the ECOSOC annual meeting in Geneva, available at <http://www.cidse.org/en/news/ecosocsta160703.pdf>.

The latest issue of the **CIDSE Advocacy Newsletter** (July 2003) will be available shortly on the CIDSE website (<http://www.cidse.org/en/advocacy/newsletter/index.html>). It contains among others articles on the following topics: Cancun preparations, AoA Negotiations, Initiatives on Global Governance, IMF/World Bank PRSP Review, CSR, the EU Convention and Peace & Conflict Coalition update on PWYP.

Check CIDSE's website in August for these **upcoming papers**:

- A joint CIDSE, Caritas Europa and Pax Christi position paper making the case for **Publish What You Pay from a Catholic Social Teaching perspective**. (EN, FR, PT) (mcdonald@cidse.org)
- A policy statement for the **Cancun WTO ministerial meeting** containing policy recommendations in the areas of agriculture, TRIPS, WTO institutional reform and the so-called Singapore issues. (vandillen@cidse.org)

On **13-14 October**, CIDSE plans to organise a conference in Brussels, in collaboration with Solidar and Oxfam International. This **conference** will **evaluate the Cancun ministerial meeting** and is in follow-up to the Brussels conference "Doha Round – What's in it for Development?" on 7-8 May, organised by the same three networks. For more information contact nimhurchu@cidse.org.

The CIDSE and Caritas Europa secretariats are happy to welcome **Denise Auclair** as a **full staff member** in the position of **EU Development Policy Officer**. She will continue to replace Flaminia Macchia, who will remain on leave for the coming six months. Denise recently completed a masters program in international development and has previous experience in economic sanctions policy and private sector management consulting.

The network Europe-Haiti Coordination has published a **job opportunity** for a **part-time lobbyist on Europe-Haiti relations** to begin in September 2003. For details see <http://www.cidse.org/en/jobs/index.html>.