



## **Activities report 2007**

### **Summary**

In Brussels, the issue which drew most of the attention in 2007 was the negotiation process for Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the European Union and the ACP states (in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific). The deadline for these negotiations to be concluded was 31 December, resulting in a flurry of activities and frantic attempts to conclude, at any price, interim EPAs before the end of the year. Aprodev was actively involved in both monitoring and influencing the negotiation process, focussing especially on rural development and agricultural trade. Aprodev will continue to expose undue pressure put on the ACP countries by the European Commission, and to provide evidence on the EU's failure to respond to development situations and needs of the ACP.

Rather more consensual were the negotiations for a Joint European Union-African Union Strategy, which started early 2007 and were concluded at a Summit in Lisbon, in December 2007. Building on Aprodev's value-added and specificity, a joint process was organised with the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and the Roman Catholic Bishops Conferences in Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) with the objective to ensure their input into the process. It was the first time AACC and SECAM worked together on such an issue.

European Union aid policies and European Commission funding policies remained high on Aprodev's agenda during 2007. On this topic, two training courses were organised (in Southern Africa and West Africa) for partner organisations in those regions. In the context of Concord, Aprodev actively contributed to the production of the annual report on EU aid as well as to preparatory work on the September 2008 conference on aid effectiveness, to be held in Accra.

The Concord Gender Working Group (initiated by Aprodev in 2005-6) has become a successful lobby tool to keep gender on the EC agenda and push for concrete implementation of EU commitments on gender equality objectives.

Capacity building activities were also organised around the European Neighbourhood Policy, in Brussels and in Georgia. An open letter was written to External Affairs Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner (which was published on their web site), expressing views of civil society on the European Neighbourhood Policy. Active lobbying of the EU institutions also took place in the context of the plans to develop an EU strategy for a New Partnership with Central Asia.

Aprodev work on Central America kept a close eye on three pillars of EU-Central America cooperation (aid, political cooperation, trade) and provides an important and relevant EU advocacy forum for partner organisations and European NGOs. During the past period, the focus was on the negotiations for an Association Agreement between the EU and Central America,

The Middle East work concentrated on trying to convince EU institutions of the need for the EU to adhere to International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

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## Glossary

AACC	All Africa Conference of Churches
ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
AoA	(WTO) Agreement on Agriculture
BMA	Benchmarking Approach (to include development concerns in EPAs)
CECAM	Symposium of Episcopal Conferences in Africa and Madagascar
CEE	Central & Eastern Europe
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (of the OECD)
DG	Directorate General (of the European Commission)
EBA	Everything But Arms (duty and quota free access to the EU for LDCs)
ECCA	Ecumenical Consortium for Central Asia
EECCA	(Aprodev Working Group on) Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
ECDPM	European Centre for Development Policy Management
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
EDF	European Development Fund (for ACP countries)
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ENPI	European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument
EPAs	Economic Partnership Agreements (trade relations between the EU and the ACP)
EPP	European People's Party ('Christian democrats')
ERPG	European Regional Partnership Group
EWSF	Ecumenical Women's Solidarity Fund
FDR	Concord Working Group on Funding for Development and Relief
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession
JPA	(EU-ACP) Joint Parliamentary Assembly
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MEPs	Members of the European Parliament
NGDO	Non Governmental Development Organisation
ODA	Official Development Assistance (according to DAC criteria)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (rich countries)
TACIS	Technical Aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States
TRIPs	Trade Related International Property rights
WCC	World Council of Churches
WIDE	Women in Development Europe
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation

## I Governing bodies and staff

At the 2007 Annual Meeting, in Reykjavik, Iceland, Jack van Ham (ICCO) was elected chair of Aprovev, thereby succeeding Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel (Brot für die Welt). Henrik Stubkjær (DanChurchAid) stepped down as a member of the Executive Committee. Two new members were elected: Konrad von Bonin (EED) and Antti Pentikainen (FinnChurchAid). Corinne Henchoz Pignani left HEKS/EPER in December 2007. The (observer) place of the WCC in the Executive Committee remained vacant during 2007. At the end of 2007, the composition of the Executive Committee was as follows:

Jack van Ham (ICCO), chair  
Konrad von Bonin (EED), treasurer  
Antti Pentikainen (FinnChurchAid)  
Corrine Henchoz Pignani (HEKS/EPER), until December

Erik Akkerman (ICCO) was the chair of the Policy and Advocacy Group during the second half of 2007 and Dienneke de Groot (ICCO) remained the chair of the Gender Reference Group.

During 2007 the secretariat was composed of the following staff:

Rob van Drimmelen, General Secretary  
Jo Kirrane, Office Manager  
Karine Sohet, Policy Officer/ EU Development Cooperation  
Karin Ulmer, Policy Officer/Trade and Gender  
Colombe de Mercey, Policy Officer/Central Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia  
Suzan van der Meij, Policy Officer/Central America  
Kirsten Hjørnholm Sørensen, Policy Officer/Middle East

At the end of 2007, Aprovev changed its legal status from a Dutch Foundation to a Belgian VZW (non profit organisation). This was deemed necessary in view of changes in Belgian legislation. Among others, this will change the terminology used. The Annual Meeting will become the General Assembly and the Executive Committee will, in the future, be called the Board.

## II Programme Activities

### II.1 European Union development policies

As a member of the steering committee of the Concord Aid Watch group, Aprodev was actively engaged in the production of the **annual report on European Union development aid**. We wrote parts of the chapter on the aid provided by the European Commission, wrote a paper on the issue of budget support – an instrument increasingly used by the Commission – helped prepare a workshop on that issue.

In the context of the upcoming conference on **aid effectiveness**, in Ghana, September 2008, Aprodev helped organise a regional workshop of Northern NGOs in October 2007. This workshop was part of a series of regional workshops held in various parts of the world. Some of our Nordic members participated in the seminar.

The Cotonou group of Concord focussed its work in 2007 on the programming of the 10<sup>th</sup> **European Development Fund** (EDF). Aprodev helped analyse the selection of priority sectors for Commission support to the ACP countries, compared these with commitments made towards the Millennium Development Goals, analysed how cross-cutting issues such as gender and environment are taken into account, whether civil society participation is ensured, and how the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations influence the EDF programming. Aprodev also helped organise a seminar (in February) and wrote several briefing papers on these issues. One of the outcomes of this seminar was a list of topics that should be addressed by policy makers. This list was later used in meetings with the EDF committee (Council, Member States level), the European Parliament and the Joint ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly in Wiesbaden (at lunch briefing organised at that occasion). The seminar appeared to be a good occasion to establish a regular dialogue with the EDF Committee (Council) and ACP ambassadors.

In the context of the formulating the **Financial Perspectives** 2007-2013 – the budgetary framework of the Union – several new aid instruments and programmes were devised. In 2007, the secretariat continued to analyse and collect information on these instruments and perspectives of Commission funding for our member organisations. At the same time, Aprodev tried to influence the content of the multi-annual strategy papers and annual action plans for the implementation of the instruments and programmes. Both aspects of the work were quite challenging because of the lack of transparency and consultation on the part of the European Commission.

Available information was summarised in the form of short briefings that were used for the two one-week **training sessions for partner organisations** that took place in March 2007 in Johannesburg and in May 2007 in Bamako. These sessions are part of the pilot project initiated by the Aprodev EU Funding group. The first capacity building workshop was held in Nairobi, in 2006.

Aprodev was the keynote speaker at the Central Training on European Commission aid instruments, organised by TRIALOG, in Tallinn, for NGOs from new Member States.

Following up on earlier work done in the area of **security and development**, an assignment was given to a team of consultants (one from Germany and one from the Sudan) to produce a study on the question how coherent European Union development and security policies are with regard to the 'post conflict situation in 'South Sudan. The report is expected to be finalised in 2008. Aprodev co-organised (together with Pax Christi International) a meeting in Brussels of PeaceNet – an international network of ecumenical and Roman Catholic development and relief organisations. The focus was on the new Stability Instrument

and the Peace-building Partnership. The secretariat wrote a briefing paper for, and gave a presentation at the ICCO-led conference, in November, in Brussels, with partner organisations on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

In 2006, the Policy and Advocacy Group identified the issue of **climate change** and development as an important emerging issue on which many of the Aprodev member organisations were beginning to work. Thereupon, the Secretariat organised a light mapping exercise in order to obtain an overview of whether and how the agencies are involving themselves regarding this issue. The mapping exercise resulted in a compilation of descriptions of the activities regarding climate change of 10 Aprodev member organisations as well as the World Council of Churches. Christian Aid wrote a briefing paper on responsibilities, policies and activities of the European Union in the area of climate change and development. This paper was discussed at a first meeting of Aprodev agencies working on the issue of climate change and development (in March 2007). A second meeting of the group was held in September and concentrated on the theme of greening our own operations. It was felt that, for lobby, advocacy and campaign work to be credible, the agencies should first bring their own house in order from an environmental point of view. During that meeting, presentations were given on the policies of the member organisations concerning internal issues (travel, use of paper, insulation of buildings, etc.) as well as policies concerning the integration of climate change concerns in the work with our partner organisations. Contacts were made with other (ecumenical) organisations working on climate change related issues and Aprodev also participated in a consultation meeting called by the European Commission on the new 'Global Climate Change Alliance' initiative. The second European Development Days were held in Lisbon, in November. This time, the theme was climate change. Aprodev was present with a joint stand (together with CIDSE and Caritas Europa). Several member organisations also participated.

Aprodev is an active member of the Concord reference group on the **Joint EU-Africa Strategy**. In that capacity, we contributed to the various papers that were produced and we participated in meetings with the ad hoc working group of the Council which was established to follow-up and monitor the drafting of the joint strategy (all 27 MS were represented). Aprodev represented Concord at a meeting organised by ECDPM and VENRO (the German NGO platform) in April, which brought together around 100 African and European civil society actors and African Union and European Union officials. The aim of the conference was to formulate clear expectations of civil society regarding the EU-Africa strategy. Aprodev initiated a joint project with the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and the Roman Catholic Bishops Conferences in Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) aimed at formulating views of African churches on the future of EU-Africa relations. The project was financed, outside the regular Aprodev budget, by EED, DCA, Church of Sweden and Cordaid. Three consultants, covering different parts of Africa, wrote a report (in English and French) that appeared in October. It was the first time a continent-wide study, covering both the Roman Catholic Church and AACC member churches, was undertaken. On the basis of the report, a pan African consultation was held in Accra, Ghana at the beginning of November to discuss the issues at stake and assess ways forward. A joint AACC-SECAM statement on the EU-Africa Strategy was adopted and was, subsequently, broadly distributed both in Africa and in the EU. The meeting was historic as it was the first time that AACC and SECAM came together to discuss socio-political issues. It is the intention that such meetings will be repeated in the future. A representative of AACC and a member of the secretariat participated in activities in Lisbon which were organised around this Summit.

Aprodev participated in, and gave a presentation (about EPAs) at the Civil Society Forum of about 100 African and European civil society organisations and NGOs held in November. The Forum adopted a resolution that was transmitted to the organisers of the EU-Africa Summit which took place at the beginning of December in Lisbon.

Regular updates on the EU-Africa process and Summit were provided in the EU News.

## II.2 EU trade and agricultural policies

The reporting year constituted a crucial period for the tough negotiations between the European Commission and the ACP countries on **Economic Partnership Agreements** (EPAs), as the deadline for concluding the free trade deals was 31 December.

Aprodev drafted a letter to the EU and ACP trade negotiators which was signed by the regional church bodies the Conference of European Churches (CEC), COMECE (Bishops Conferences in the EU), All Africa Conference of Churches and SECAM (Bishops Conferences in Africa). The letter, to which a response was received from Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, urged the negotiators to give priority to the objective of poverty reduction. Aprodev also drafted a statement on EPAs for the Central Committee meeting of CEC, November, which was almost integrally adopted. A church reception was organised during the EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Wiesbaden, Germany, in June, where Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel spoke on behalf of Aprodev and the AACC representative explained the position of African churches. The AACC paid major attention to EPAs in 2007. One of the activities was a workshop in Tanzania, which was supported by several Aprodev members.

Together with the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) Aprodev commissioned research into the formulation and use of development benchmarks as for the trade negotiations. Research for the Caribbean region was carried out by the University of the West Indies. A multi stakeholder consultation was organised in Kingston, Jamaica, in July. Trade negotiators and parliamentarians from the region participated in this consultation as well as some partner organisations. Research for Southern Africa (SADC) was carried out by Tralac, a regional trade law centre. The results were presented at multi stakeholder meeting in Johannesburg, in September. There was consensus on the need to align EPAs with national and regional development strategies and that these should be in place before countries or regions sign comprehensive and far reaching trade agreements.

Gender equity benchmarks constitute an important element of development benchmarks. Several papers were written on this topic, including an article in Trade Negotiations Insights (June). At a brainstorming meeting with the statistical unit of EU ECA, in Addis, May, Aprodev gave a presentation on defining gender equity indicators for agriculture and trade. In addition, a chapter on gender and trade was written for the book *Das globale Huhn* (the global chicken), published by EED, on the importance of small scale poultry farming for the empowerment of poor rural women.

Besides promoting the use of development benchmarks for EPA negotiations, Aprodev emphasised the urgent need to insert development benchmarks or criteria in any monitoring mechanisms once EPAs are in place. To that effect, a joint paper on development oriented monitoring was written by ICTSD and Aprodev. Aprodev gave inputs in, and contributions to a number of meetings, including a consultation organised by ECDPM/DIE, and was invited to make a presentation to the ACP Sub-Committee on Trade of the ACP Ambassadors. Lobbying efforts resulted in concrete language in the EPA texts in the Caribbean EPA, the interim EPA in the Eastern Southern African region and the East African Community interim EPA. Another concrete result is the establishment of an EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly oversight committee on EPAs.

In September, Aprodev, together with Christian Aid and Oxfam, organised a Roundtable discussion on EPAs that brought together development academics and professionals and ACP and EU Member State officials to discuss draft EPA texts as proposed by the EC. The conclusion was that while there is potential for EPAs to bring real benefits to the development prospects of the ACP, much more work remains to be done and a more open-minded approach is needed. The findings were summarised in a briefing paper

“Crossing development red lines” that draws on experts’ technical analyses to give guidance on the necessary shifts in approach to the negotiating process and highlights some of the key issues in each area of the trade negotiations that need attention to achieve the best outcome for poor producers and traders in ACP countries.

The fact that partner organisations of Aprodev members were full members of the formal EPA negotiation team of the Central African region, provided Aprodev with the unique possibility to have direct access to the negotiations. Aprodev and SOS Faim facilitated a press conference for Central African civil society (ACDIC/PANEAC) and private sector (GICAM) that exposed the contentious issues among the negotiating parties to the public – resulting in the Central African region’s refusal to bow for Commission pressure to sign a full EPA during the October round of negotiations. However, by the end of the year, Cameroon, initialled an interim EPA in line with interests from its export sector and (banana) industry.

Aprodev continued to work closely with ACDIC, a partner organisation in Cameroon, on the issue of **export of chicken parts** to West African countries. A DVD on this theme was produced and presented at a well attended launch (in January) at the European Parliament. Copies of the DVD were distributed widely in Europe as well as in Africa. A chapter on chicken and gender was written in the book *Das globale Huhn* (the global chicken), produced by EED. A second multi stakeholder meeting was held in the Netherlands (following an earlier one in Germany) with representatives from the government, the association of poultry farmers, and industry. The objective was to promote responsible behaviour of the various stakeholders involved. Media in Germany and in the Netherlands continued to be very interested in the issue. Parliamentary questions on the topic were posed in the Netherlands. The case of exports of chicken parts forms the basis for writing a policy paper on Trade Defence Measures (to be finalised in 2008).

The EPA negotiations are part of a broader EU agenda to negotiate free trade agreements with different regions and/or countries in the world. The EU views on this are outlined in a paper called **Global Europe**. Aprodev organised a workshop on this paper. One of the objectives was to connect the work on trade done by Aprodev Working Groups and other NGOs on different regional trade negotiations and to identify a common agenda.

In October, the EU adopted a strategy on **Aid for Trade**. The EU’s objective is to provide earmarked funds for ACP countries in order to help them adjust to free trade conditions; unless clearly stated, this is likely to figure as a carrot for country’ willingness to signing onto EPAs. Christian Aid produced a briefing paper on this topic referring to lessons learnt from Structural Adjustment Programmes expressing views which are much in line with the development benchmarking approach.

### II.3 European Union Gender policies

In 2005, Aprodev took the leadership in establishing a **gender task force in Concord**. At the beginning of 2007, the convenor’s role was passed on to WIDE. The Concord Board decided to call on all their working structures to include gender equality objectives in their terms of reference and to include gender training in their respective activities.

As a member of the Concord gender task force, Aprodev contributed to various lobby initiatives vis-à-vis the Commission, e.g. regarding the Communication on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Development Co-operation, and the legal provision on gender mainstreaming in the new Financial Perspectives. For Concord, Aprodev organised a workshop on linkages and synergies between environment and gender as cross cutting issues.

Several articles and reports were written on **gender and trade**, such as in Trade Negotiation Insight (on gender equity in trade negotiations, and a second article on EPA negotiations in Central Africa), and on chicken and gender (see II.2). In 2007, Aprodev published the process report on the EPA Gender Review following the lobby event hosted by the European Commission in 2006.

The Aprodev Secretariat and the Gender Reference Group responded positively and invested in ICCO's lead agency approach to organise a joint EU conference on **UNSCR 1325** (see also above). The Secretariat provided support and expertise. It ran two half-day sessions for joint preparation and joint follow up with all Aprodev agency partners, who expressed their appreciation for this kind of "multilateral" Aprodev partner gathering. This experience has led to a first set of recommendations on how to make best use of, and propose standards for a lead agency approach as a future model for joint Aprodev lobby work.

The Aprodev secretariat gave an input at an **EED** workshop in November on EED's gender strategy. The aim was to identify gender-specific advocacy focus in EED advocacy and lobby department, possibly, identifying synergies with Aprodev work.

**Trans-institutional learning** within Aprodev is important to learn how to best achieve organisational commitments to gender justice. Following the decision at the Aprodev Annual Meeting 2007, the Gender Reference Group has engaged in an exercise of reporting on gender progress that will be a useful tool to identify gender trends, gaps and strength of current and future Aprodev gender work.

## II.4 Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

### II.4.1 European Neighbourhood Policy

In February, a 3-day capacity building and lobbying seminar was organised jointly with Eurostep, WWF, and Womnet, on the theme *Can Europe act as a responsible social and environmental player in its neighbourhood? - The implementation of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument*. Aprodev partner organisations from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Israel participated in this event. The report, which is available in English and French, can be used as a toolkit for local organisations to get involved in the monitoring of Commission assistance programming.

Aprodev, Eurostep, WomNet and WWF, jointly launched a website on European Community aid to Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and South Mediterranean countries. This website [www.enpi-programming.eu](http://www.enpi-programming.eu) is a tool for civil society actors to follow the discussions on the programming of assistance under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

Following the Commission's Communication on "strengthening the ENP" of November 2006, the Commission prepared a series of "non-papers" on concrete aspects which need to be further developed. Together with WWF and Eurostep, the Aprodev secretariat prepared *Comments on the non-papers expanding on the proposals for strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy: governance facility, NIF and NEC*, which were circulated to, and discussed with the Member States representatives.

The gender component was strengthened by means of facilitating networking with women networks in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and by contributing Aprodev ENP expertise to gender lobby events organised by WomNet, WIDE and Karat during the German EU Presidency.

Together with the Eastern European Platform, the Centre for Training and Consultancy (CTC), and EED staff, a regional training workshop was organised in June on EU policies and funding. The event brought together 24 participants from Aprodev partner organisations from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Also in June, a workshop on “ENPI Programming for Georgia and involvement of Civil Society” was organised jointly by the CTC and Aprodev. This workshop brought together representatives of several Georgian and international NGOs. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the programming of European Commission financial assistance to Georgia, in particular through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and the involvement of civil society in this process.

In September, the European Commission organised a Ministerial conference on *Strengthening the ENP*. Several Aprodev partner organisations participated in this event. Following the conference, Aprodev hosted a meeting (together with Eurostep, the Heinrich Böll Foundation and WWF) to evaluate the conference and to plan common action. It was decided to write an open letter to Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner, expressing views of civil society on the ENP. The Commissioner was grateful for this letter and put it on the Commission’s web site. She also asked for our views on how we see our role in the review of the ENP and on how a platform for consulting with civil society could be developed.

#### II.4.2 Central Asia

Together with ECCA (Ecumenical Consortium for Central Asia: Christian Aid, DanChurchAid, Norwegian Church Aid and ICCO), a letter on the regional strategy paper and indicative programme for Central Asia was prepared and sent to the Member States. An Aprodev briefing paper was sent to the European Parliament, and well received by some MEPs. Support was provided to the Central Asia Platform (composed of Aprodev partner organisations) for input into the organisation of a “EU-NGO Dialogue” on 27-28 March 2007, organised by the European Commission’s Delegation to Kyrgyzstan on EC assistance to Kyrgyzstan.

The June European Council adopted an EU strategy for a New Partnership with Central Asia. It sets out political guidelines for a considerably enhanced EU commitment in Central Asia, focusing on security issues, energy, education and rule of law. In the run-up to this Council decision, Aprodev organised several processes in order to convey civil society views on the issues at stake to the decision makers. In March, Asiya Sasykbaeva, director of the Centre Interbilim, Kyrgyzstan, participated as a keynote speaker in a high-level conference in Brussels, organised by the CEPS (influential Brussels based think tank), on the future EU strategy for Central Asia. Aprodev produced a briefing paper on the future strategy, emphasising that the draft focused clearly on the EU’s own strategic interests like security, stability, energy, transport, migration, fight against trafficking and “rule of law”. Several Member States and EC officials responded favourably.

In addition, many other activities were carried out in the context of the EECCA regions. Most of these were described in the quarterly newsletters of this project that are produced by the Secretariat.

#### II.5 EU policies towards Israel and the Palestinian people

The main objective of work in this area is to ensure that the EU and its Member States promote the respect for, and enforcement of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) among both parties to the conflict by ensuring that all

its policies, relations, agreements and activities with Israel and the Palestinian Authority are drafted, interpreted and implemented in accordance with public international law.

Two key issues in this respect were the protocol enabling Israel to participate in EU programmes (and agencies) and the 7th framework scientific cooperation agreement between the EU and Israel. Aprodev intervened on the first issue, highlighting the problems of closer EU-Israel cooperation in the light of Israel's massive IHL and HR violations. Due to Aprodev's tenacious lobby activities, the Commission had to admit in public that the framework agreements had been 'misapplied' since illegal Israeli settlements on the West Bank had been allowed to participate in programmes of scientific cooperation.

In March, Aprodev sent a letter to Mr. Steinmeier, Mr. Solana, Mrs. Ferrero-Waldner and Mr. Michel regarding the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) for support to the Palestinian People. Aprodev raised concerns that the right of the civilian population of the Occupied Palestinian Territories to lawful and effective administration had not been considered by the EU when deciding upon the TIM.

In June, Aprodev helped facilitate a report written by a number of Israeli and Palestinian human rights organisations which are members of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network. The report emphasised that that EU's only chance of promoting a lasting and just peace in Middle East is by 'socialising' the two parties into respecting international standards of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Cooperation with the WCC in relation to PIEF - Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum - has increased. Aprodev is represented with two persons in the PIEF Core Group (William Bell/Christian Aid and Kirsten H. Sørensen/Aprodev) and work is progressing although resources are critically few.

## II.6 Central America

The preparation of negotiations of an Association Agreement (including a free trade agreement) between the EU and Central America dominated the agenda in 2007. The formulation and approval of the EU's negotiation mandate was an important lobby opportunity. The draft mandate, which leaked out, revealed an aggressive trade agenda, not taking into account asymmetries and development concerns. Aprodev wrote an analysis of the draft and shared the mandate and analysis with partners in the region. Advocacy efforts in Brussels to influence the mandate were strengthened through coordination with other networks and efforts in the Member States of the most active members of the Central America Working Group.

An Impact Assessment on social and sustainability effects of the future agreement has to be carried out by the EU. Advocacy was done to guarantee a timely and good quality SIA. A proposal was presented to the Commission for the Terms of Reference and MEPs posed questions (formulated by Aprodev) on the topic. In spite of Commissioner Mandelson's answer to the questions that the SIA would start immediately after approval of the mandate, nothing has happened since then. This necessitates further attention to both the content and the timing.

The European Parliament presented their opinion on the negotiations ("own initiative procedure") in March. Efforts were made by Aprodev, in close coordination with other networks, to influence the EP's text. The result was a somewhat disappointing consensus document that includes many of our development points but also calls for quick liberalisation.

As a result of advocacy efforts, a civil society forum on the future negotiations was organised by the EU in March in Honduras.

The development policy (2007-2013) for the region was presented in the Country Strategies and Regional Strategy. Aprodev made an analysis of these, detecting considerable changes in priorities in most countries, related to the trade agenda. Input was provided to the EP when they had to formulate their opinion on the Strategies in the framework of the new scrutiny procedure. A start was made with systematic monitoring of the implementation of the strategies. This will provide information to the future EP scrutiny and to civil society actors willing to have more and better dialogue with the Commission.

In the work with partners in Central America, providing information is a central element. Six bulletins were published, and during two trips, information meetings in the different Central American countries were organised. In Honduras two more intensive workshops were organised.

Aprodev was an active participant in a bi-regional joint event between European and Central American civil society networks working on EU policies (especially the association agreement).

### III Publications

- 9 issues of *EU News* were produced in addition to the regular newsletters of the special programmes.
- *Aprodev Training Workshop on EC funding and Project Management*, CD ROM, March 2007
- *No more chicken, please. How a strong grassroots movement in Cameroon is successfully resisting damaging chicken imports from Europe, which are ruining small farmers all over West Africa*, ACDIC, Aprodev, EED, ICCO, November 2007
- *Formulating sustainable development benchmarks for an EU-Cariforum EPA: Caribbean perspectives*, Jessica Byron and Patsy Lewis, Aprodev and ICTSD, June 2007
- *Benchmarking EPA negotiations between EU and SADC*, Colin McCarthy, Paul Kruger and Johan Fourie. Published by ICTSD, Tralac and Aprodev, July 2007
- *The EPAs and sustainable development: benchmarks for pro-development monitoring of the negotiations*, Aprodev and ICTSD. Published in: Commonwealth Secretariat: Navigating New Waters: A reader on ACP EU Trade Relations, 2007
- *EPA Gender Review*, Process report of DG Trade Civil Society Dialogue Meeting, published by Aprodev, July 2007
- *Equity in Trade Negotiations: a Gender Review of the EPAs*, Aprodev article in: Trade Negotiations Insights, Volume 6 no 2, March-April 2007
- *Crossing development red lines? Towards a technical analysis of implications of EC proposals for EPA provisions*. Summary report of a roundtable discussion, Aprodev, Christian Aid, ECDPM, Oxfam, September 2007
- *EPAs: Development or desolation for Central Africa? - The Emperor's new clothes* Joint Aprodev/ACDIC article in: Trade Negotiation Insights, Volume 6 no 8 December 2007-January 2008

#### Inter-Agency publications

- *The role of agriculture and rural development in poverty reduction*; joint NGO paper signed by BfA, BfdW, CA, EED, Sald et al.
- *Deadly combination: The role of Southern governments and the World Bank in the rise of hunger*, by Marc Curtis. Published by BfdW, CS, DCA, NCA, 2/2007