

A European perspective on the changing Africa-Europe relations:

how can structured Policy Dialogue, Networking, and Analysis on emerging powers in Africa be useful in improving Africa-Europe relations?

Francesco Rampa - ECDPM



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT
CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE GESTION DES POLITIQUES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

OUTLINE

1. A new scenario

**2. Africa-Europe-EE ... competition /
cooperation / African strategies**

3. Dialogue (& networks/analysis)



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT
CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE GESTION DES POLITIQUES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Changed context: 'new' players, traditional donors, aid debate

- SSC & triangular, 'dead aid', new dev.paradigm
- **fresh opportunities** for traditional donors, e.g: “Can Chinese pragmatism lead the EU to reformulate its cooperation policy with Africa?”
- Coop. approaches: packages VS MDGs; flexibility VS accountability; bilateral VS regional



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT
CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE GESTION DES POLITIQUES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Improving Africa-Europe relations: competition or cooperation?

- EE: what Africa likes (respect, building what's needed now, 'can-do/optimistic') & not (Angola mode)
- EU: what Africa likes (large ODA, budget support, RI) & not (pessimism, cacophony)
- **Compete** (mkts) or **Cooperate** (P&Sec)?
- Ch.businesses in Africa: subsidies&umbrellas VS “not willing/welcome & uneven playing field”

Improving Africa-Europe relations: African strategies?

- multiple strategy or ad-hoc reactions?
- EU as rapidly evolving tradit. partnership: tensions or new stimulus? narrow focus of EU-Africa relations on ODA...EPAs → 'Modernised EU Development Policy'..Advantages e.g guide it VS **costs of no strategy** (narrowly ODA)
- few African countries coherent-coordinated-complementary strategy...RSA: engaged China to make the partnership more effective → CSP



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT
CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE GESTION DES POLITIQUES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

African strategies vis-à-vis traditional and new partners

- Mauritius, Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique
- Existing regional & pan-Afr.plans do not address new scenario...a 'common Africa strategy'? (Forum AUC-ECA & Partners Dialogue)...AU-RECs weak but 'speaking one voice' is key
- certain object. best pursued bilaterally & others as reg/continental blocs...power balancing



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT
CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE GESTION DES POLITIQUES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Re-thinking partnership: aligning to African owned objectives-strategies

- strategic thinking on ec.strategies & partner's added value → aligning requires **Dialogue**, not only coop.projects
- 'bilateral' problematic so far...triangular ?
- No consensus: Afr skeptical, EU increasingly open (EC, GER, UK, FRA), EE (sensitive)
- Coop/compet...but incentives are there...



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT
CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE GESTION DES POLITIQUES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

...incentives

- synergies & complementarities twds comprehensive development **effectiveness**
- e.g. RI can benefit both from policy support (EU) and more rapid infrastr.dev (EE)
- → joint work with a credible partner: benefits to the new partner (trust building)
- → lessons / practices sharing to avoid past mistakes (e.g. absorption, TA...)
- value to Africa: ability to influence global decisions; structuring demands to partners

Dialogue means better Networks & Analysis...& realism

- Multistakeholder: non-ODA flows & **NSA** (ODA only 3% of GDP) → horizontal partnerships
- strengthening institutions & **capacity**: awareness, evidence, comp.advantages...
- **neutral** start & dialogue tables
- sector by sector/technical rather than policy/country level (China-DAC Study Group)
- **Afr to lead**: nat/reg/cont. strateg.frameworks (Windhoek, NS/SS/triangular)

www.acp-eu-trade.org

www.ecdpm.org

fr@ecdpm.org

ECDPM

O.L. Vrouweplein, 21

NL – 6211 HE Maastricht

The Netherlands

Rue Archimède, 5

B- 1000 Brussels

Belgium



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT
CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE GESTION DES POLITIQUES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT