

Working Group 2: Aid & Trade

- Development Assistance:
 - building systems and capacities need to go first before increasing ODA in new member states
 - public awareness is crucial
 - % is not the whole picture – structure of it is important (share of debt cancellation, share going to Africa, quality of the aid projects...)
 - EDF – lack of capacity building opportunities for NGOs from new member states to become eligible for EDF funding, opportunity for networking and partnerships between larger and smaller NGOs
 - Lack of capacity and expertise on NGO level to engage in the policy making

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- Sustainable Economic Growth, Regional Integration and Trade I.:
 - Problem of agricultural subsidies (sugar in Czech Rep.) – again need for public awareness...
 - Africa trade related issues haven't surfaced in the public debate in new member states yet
 - Some lessons to be learned from cooperation between NGDOs and Austrian sugar farmers in the area of public awareness.
 - Integration of African economy into world trade may not have positive impact for the poorest people – threat that few will benefit from liberalization and poor people will gain very little.
 - Need for developing mechanism how to monitor and evaluate impact of trade liberalization on reaching MDGs
 - Proposed strategy really is EU strategy, meeting EU needs and priorities – need to make it work for Africa

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- Sustainable Economic Growth, Regional Integration and Trade II.:
 - The proposed document answers the question WHAT – it doesn't answer the question HOW – set of implementation strategies need to be developed.
 - Economic Partnership Agreements need to be asymmetric, in favor of African countries (principle of “unconditional help”)
 - Next step need to happen – internalizing development strategies in Africa through African Union and other pan-African initiatives.
 - Aid projects should not have anti-development principles build in them (obligation to buy supplies and equipment made in EU, etc.)
 - Document is missing strategy for rural development and local markets development