

Developing the future of the EU Aid for Trade agenda – in particular in the ACP

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EU AfT strategy (2007)

Objective of EU Aid for Trade strategy:

Support to integration of partner countries in the world trading system with a view to help reduce poverty (context globalisation)

1. Quantitative ambitions (pledges)
2. Pro-poor focus and quality
3. Strengthen EU capacity (aid effectiveness)
4. ACP specific context (EPA and regional integration)
5. Monitoring and reporting

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Why focus on regional level ?

EC COM on Regional integration of ACP countries (Oct. 08)

Reasons for a regional focus:

- Harness globalisation
- Positive EU experience
- Existing strategies in the ACP
- Long standing focus (Lomé and Cotonou)

Objectives of regional integration

- Political stability
- Economic development
- Regional public goods (connectivity, food security, natural resources management, pest control etc.)



AfT and regional focus

Areas of intervention:

- Strengthen regional institutions =>
- Building regional markets =>
- Support business development =>
- Connect infrastructure networks =>
- Regional policy for sustainable development

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Challenges for AfT delivery

- > Ownership of regions
- > Weak capacities of RECs
- > Multi-sectoral strategies
- > Donor co-ordination, division of labour
- > Subsidiarity

The way forward

Possible solutions:

- Enhance policy dialogue at regional level (EC-REC)
 - Involve Member states, other donors, EIF, "EU Aid for Trade packages" -> joint programming and delivery
 - Create a nexus between regional and national level
 - Use locally owned instruments
 - Focus on institution-building
- > How ?

