



A to Z

List of Abbreviations

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/development>



A to Z

List of Abbreviations

AASM

Associated African States and Madagascar

ACIS

The Advanced Cargo Information System is designed to improve transport efficiency. It provides data on transport operations such as the whereabouts of goods and transport equipment, and thus improves day-to-day management and decision-making. ACIS is designed, developed and installed by → UNCTAD.

www.unctad.org/en/techcop/tran0105.htm

ACP

African-Caribbean-Pacific countries, currently 78 states, linked to the → EU by the → Cotonou Agreement, signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 and entered into force on 1 April 2003.

www.acpsec.org

ACS

The Association of Caribbean States is an organisation for consultation, co-operation and concerted action in the areas of trade, transport, sustainable tourism and natural disasters.

www.acs-aec.org

ADB

African Development Bank Group, established in 1964, regional multi-

lateral development bank, engaged in promoting the economic development and social progress of its regional member countries in Africa.

www.afdb.org

AID

Agency for International Development (USA)

www.usaid.gov

AISI

The African Information Society Initiative is an action framework to build Africa's information and communication infrastructure. It is also the principal activity within the UN System-Wide Special Initiative on Africa programme on Harnessing Information Technology for Development (HITD/SIA).

www.uneca.org

ALA Countries

The → EC cooperates with the developing countries in Asia and Latin America. All ALA developing countries are eligible for financial and technical assistance and economic co-operation.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/evaluation/program/alahome.htm>

ALFA

Academic Education Latin America, approved by the → EU on 10 March 1994, is a co-operation programme in higher educa-

tion between the EU and Latin America.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/alfa/index_en.htm

AL-INVEST

A network of operators from Europe and Latin America co-operates on organising meetings between active companies in the same sector on both sides of the Atlantic.

www.al-invest.org

ALURE

Approved by the → EU on 2 October 1995, ALURE is a co-operation programme between the EU and Latin America in the energy sector.

www.alure.net

AMS

A traffic light analogy is used to categorise domestic support policies by colour according to whether and how they are disciplined. An indicator called the Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) measures support by combining direct payments and price support benefits that directly influence production decisions (amber box policies). A special exemption from the reductions required of amber box policies was allowed for payments tied to limits on production (blue box policies). Policies having little or no effect on production or trade (green box), such as research, domestic food aid,

environmental programs, and certain crop insurance and income safety net programs, were also exempted.

www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/agboxes_e.htm

ANC

African National Congress

www.anc.org.za

ANI

The African Network Initiative was a follow up to the African Regional Symposium on Telematics for Development (Addis Ababa, 1995). The group was formed to share information and to work on joint projects, notably the implementation of the → AISI.

www.bellanet.org/partners/ani

APEC

The Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation was established in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence among Asia-Pacific economies. Its goal is to advance Asia-Pacific economic dynamism and sense of community.

www.apec.org

ASEAN

Association of South-East Asian Nations (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)

www.aseansec.org/home.htm

ASEM

Asia-Europe Meeting is an informal process of dialogue and co-operation bringing together the fifteen → EU Member States and the → European Commission with ten Asian countries.

<http://asem.inter.net.th>

AU (African Union)

The Organisation of African Unity promotes the unity and solidarity of the African States, defend the sovereignty of members, eradicate all forms of colonialism and promote international co-operation having due regard for the Charter of the → UN.

www.oau-oua.org

AWG

The Africa Working Group within the Council has the aim to foster an understanding of the vision of global peace services among Africans and benefit from their perspectives and experience.

CACEU

Central African Customs and Economic Union. See Monetary and Economic Community of Central Africa (CEMAC).

www.icicemac.com/ceMAC

CAP (EU)

The Common Agricultural Policy adopted by members of the → EU. The aims are to ensure reasonable

living standards for farmers and to secure regular supplies and reasonable prices for consumers. CAP involves the distribution of grants and a price-support system.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/agriculture/hist_en.htm

CARICOM

The Caribbean Community and Common Market is an association of Caribbean states established in 1973 to further economic co-operation through the Caribbean Common Market, co-ordinate foreign policy among member states, and provide common services in health, education and culture, communications and industrial relations.

www.caricom.org

CARIFORUM

Grouping of Caribbean States of which the majority signed the Lomé Convention and Cotonou Agreement.

www.cariforum.org

CBO

Community-Based Organisations are organisations based in and working in one or more local communities (neighbourhoods or districts); they are normally private, charitable (non-profit) organisations which are run by and for the local community. Typically, they

were created in response to some particular local need or situation - often related to the local environment - and they usually support a variety of specific local improvement actions (for instance, environmental upgrading, youth education, employment promotion, etc.), which are generally undertaken by or with the local people.

CBTF

Capacity Building Task Force on trade, environment and development, combines the unique strengths of → UNEP to build capacities on optimising the environmental effects of trade and of → UNCTAD to build capacities on enhancing the developmental effects of trade.

www.unctad.org/cbtf/index.htm

CCA

The United Nations Common Country Assessment assesses the country's development situation in the context of national development priorities.

www.un.org

CCC

The Consumers' Consultative Committee (CCC) is a consultative body of the EU, consisting of 39 members, representing European consumer organisations, national organisations, institutions and individuals who are particularly

competent in consumer affairs. The members of the CCC are appointed as a result of a Commission decision for a three-year-period, once renewable. The Council delivers opinions to the Commission on problems related to the protection of consumer interests at Community level, and notably the implementation of consumer policy. It submits its opinions either at the request of the Commission or on its own initiative.

CCT

Since the completion of the internal market, goods can circulate freely between member states. The Common Customs Tariff (CCT) therefore applies to the import of goods across the external borders of the EU. The tariff is common to all EU members, but the rates of duty differ from one kind of import to another depending on what they are and where they come from. The rates depend on the economic sensitivity of products.

CDE

The Centre for the Development of Enterprise is an → ACP-EU institution financed by the → EDF under the new → Cotonou Agreement, entered into force 1 April 2003 bringing together the → EU and the 78 ACP countries. The CDE has expanded its support facilities adding new service sectors including

tourism, telecommunications and transport.

www.cdi.be/opening/800/index.htm

CDF

The Comprehensive Development Framework is an approach to development, helping countries to become leaders and owners of their own development actions. The CDF is currently being piloted in 13 countries.

www.worldbank.org/cdf

CDI

The provisions of the → Cotonou Agreement have transformed the Centre for Development of Industry into the → CDE. This has resulted in an extension of its enterprise support vocation for all sectors.

www.cdi.be/opening/800/index.htm

CDM Online

Is a joint venture between the Center for Sustainable Development in the Americas (CSDA) and → UNDP. It focuses on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), its history, potential development, and eventually, its operation.

www.cdmonline.org

CdT

The Translation Centre for the Bodies of the EU (CdT) is a legal person in its own right and self-financing. Set up to meet the translation needs of the other decentralised

Community agencies, it also serves the institutions and other bodies that have their own translation services, on the basis of voluntary co-operation agreements. In addition it participates in the Interinstitutional Committee for Translation, which is working to promote co-operation between the services on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity and to achieve economies of scale in the translation field. Based in Luxembourg.

www.cdt.eu.int

CE

As in 'CE marking': European Community conformity marking

CEC

Commission of the European Communities

CEDEFOP

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training is the EU's reference centre for vocational education and training. It provides information on vocational education and training systems, policies, research and practice. CEDEFOP's information, research and dissemination activities support vocational education and training specialists to develop and improve vocational education and training in Europe. Based in Thessalonica.

www.cedefop.eu.int

www.trainingvillage.gr

CEECs

Central and Eastern European countries

CELEX

The Computerised documentation on Community law website gives comprehensive and authoritative information on EU law. It offers multilingual full-text coverage of a wide range of legal acts and provides access to the founding treaties, as well as to binding and non-binding legislation. Included is also Case-law of the European Court of Justice.

http://europa.eu.int/celex/htm/celex_en.htm

CERD

European Research and Development Committee (Comité européen de la recherche et du développement)

CFC

Common Fund for Commodities, established in 1989, intergovernmental financial institution, to enhance the socio-economic development of commodity producers and contribute to the development of society as a whole.

www.common-fund.org

CFF

Common Fisheries Policy

CFSP

A Common Foreign and Security Policy was incorporated into the

Treaty establishing the Maastricht Treaty, that came into force on 1 November 1993. Provisions were revised by the Amsterdam Treaty, which entered into force in 1999. An important decision was the appointment of a High Representative for the CFSP. The Treaty of Nice entered into force on 1 February 2003 and contained new provision, notably increasing the areas, which fall under qualified majority voting. The adoption of a Common Foreign Security Policy, which requires co-operation between Member States in foreign policy and security, and co-operation in justice and home affairs.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/cfsp/intro

CG

The Consultative Group process involves the periodic calling of donor conferences to address development issues around the world. The major donor countries – including, countries of the → EU, the U.S., Japan, Canada and others, as well as the multilateral development banks and the → IMF – periodically meet to receive country presentations and make pledges of assistance.

<http://hurricane.info.usaid.gov/dcgroup.html>

CGAP

The Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest is a consortium of

27 bilateral and multilateral donor agencies whose mission is to improve the capacity of microfinance institutions to deliver flexible and high-quality financial services to the very poor on a sustainable basis.

www.cgap.org

CGED

Consultative Group on Economic Development

CGIAR

Created in 1971, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research is an association of public and private members supporting a system of 16 Future Harvest Centres that work in more than 100 countries to mobilise cutting-edge science to reduce hunger and poverty, improve human nutrition and health, and protect the environment.

www.cgiar.org

CIDA

The Canadian International Development Agency supports sustainable development activities in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world.

www.acdi-cida.gc.ca

CIDSE

International Co-operation for Development and Solidarity, established in 1967, is a co-ordination

body for national Catholic development organisations.

www.cidse.org/en/index.html

CITES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

www.cites.org

CN

When declared to customs in the Community, goods must generally be classified according to the Combined Nomenclature. Imported and exported goods have to be declared stating under which sub-heading of the nomenclature they fall. This determines which rate of customs duty applies and how the goods are treated for statistical purposes. This nomenclature is based on the internationally recognised Harmonised System, which is run by the World Customs Organisation (WCO). This systematic list of commodities forms the basis for international trade negotiations, and is applied by most trading nations.

COMESA

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa was established in 1994 to replace the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA). The PTA, and hence COMESA, was established to take advantage of a larger market

size, to share the region's common heritage and destiny and to allow greater social and economic co-operation, with the ultimate objective of creating an economic community. Currently 20 African states are members of COMESA.

www.comesa.int

COR

The Committee of the Regions is the youngest of the EU's institutions, created by the Maastricht Treaty (1993), as a representative assembly with the objective of giving local and regional authorities a voice at the heart of the EU. The setting up of the COR was a means of addressing two main issues. Firstly, about three quarters of EU legislation is implemented at local or regional level, so it makes sense for local and regional representatives to have a say in the development of new EU laws. Secondly, there were concerns about the public was being left behind as the EU steamed ahead. Involving the elected level of government closest to the citizens was one way of closing the gap.

www.cor.eu.int

Cotonou Agreement

Subsequent to the regularly adapted and updated → Lomé Convention, the new partnership agreement was signed on 23 June 2000 in Cotonou (Benin) by 15

European Member States and 77 ACP countries for 20 years and entered into force on 1 April 2003. It provides a general framework for the Community aid to → ACP countries under the → EDF and defines a perspective that combines politics, trade and development. It is based on five interdependent pillars: a comprehensive political dimension, participatory approaches, a strengthened focus on poverty reduction, a new framework for economic and trade co-operation and a reform of financial co-operation.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/cotonou/index_en.htm

CPN

The Conflict Prevention Network of the → European Commission provides the → EU institutions with consultancy services on external relations. CPN promotes conflict prevention and non-military crisis management within the emerging set-up of the European Security and Defence Policy. CPN builds its expertise on a network of first-rate research institutes, specialised → NGOs, and high-quality independent experts.

www.swp-berlin.org/cpn

CPVO

Since 1996 the Community Plant Variety Office, an EU agency, has administered a system of

Community plant variety rights, a specific form of industrial property rights relating to new plant varieties. The CPVO functions in a similar way to the → OHIM; it grants rights ensuring industrial property protection for eligible new varieties. These rights are valid for a duration of either 25 or 30 years. Every two months the Office publishes an official gazette including extracts from its registers. It also publishes an annual report listing valid Community plant variety rights, the names of their holders and the dates on which they were granted and will expire. Based in Anger.

www.cpvo.eu.int

CSD

Commission on Sustainable Development, created in December 1992, ensures the high visibility of sustainable development issues within the → UN system and helps to improve the UN's co-ordination of environment and development activities.

www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd.htm

CST

The Community Support Framework co-ordinates EU regional activities, occasionally involving the four Structural Funds (→ ERDF, ESF, EAGGF, FIFG) and the → EIB. In each case, however, the projects must be incorporated into plans

already developed by national authorities, regional authorities and their economic partners.

CSO

Civil Society Organisations

www.civil-society.oas.org/english/CSO-links.htm

CSS

Country Support Strategy for implementation of EDF resources covers execution of all operations financed from the grant envelope and will be established in dialogue with the recipient country.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/csp_rsp/csp_en.htm

CTA

Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation, advancing agricultural and rural development in → ACP countries by promoting the transfer, exchange and utilisation of information.

www.agricta.org/index.htm

D&HR

Democracy and Human Rights

DAC

OECD Development Assistance Committee, fosters coordinated, integrated, effective and adequately financed international efforts in support of sustainable economic and social development.

www.oecd.org/dac

DAC List

The list of the Development Assistance Committee is designed for statistical purposes. It helps to measure and classify aid and other resource flows originated in DAC countries.

www.oecd.org/dac

DC

Developing Countries

DG DEV

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Development contributes to the formulation of the EU's development co-operation policy for all developing countries and Overseas Countries and Territories (→ OCTs). It directly manages and coordinates EU relations with the 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific states (→ ACP) and the 20 OCTs. Its objective is to foster sustainable development designed to eradicate poverty in developing countries and to integrate them into the world economy.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/development>

DG T

Is the European Commission's Translation Directorate General.

DG Trade

The Directorate-General for Trade has the task of conducting the Union's commercial policy. Along

with monetary and development policies, trade policy forms the main pillar of the → EU's relations with the rest of the world. Its purpose is to promote the economic and political interests of the → EC. It covers the main aspects of trade in goods and services as well as key aspects of intellectual property, investment and competition.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade>

DITE

Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development → UNCTAD

www.unctad.org/en/subsites/dite/index.html

EACH

Europe-Africa Co-operation on Handicrafts

EAGGF

The European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund consumes a large part of the general budget of the European Union. The Fund's Guarantee Section finances, in particular, expenditure on the agricultural market organisations, the rural development measures that accompany market support and rural measures outside of Objective 1 regions, certain veterinary expenditure and information measures relating to the → CAP. The Guidance Section finances

other rural development expenditure (not financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section). The Fund is administered by the Commission and the Member States, co-operating within the EAGGF Committee. The Fund Committee consists of representatives of the Member States and of the Commission.

EAR

The European Agency for Reconstruction is responsible for the management of the main EU reconstruction programmes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It is an independent agency of the European Union, accountable to the European Council and the European Parliament, and overseen by a Governing Board composed of the European Commission and representatives from EU Member States. The Agency plays its part within a wider European Union commitment to the region, which also includes EU assistance through macro-financial, humanitarian and democratisation aid, as well as the bilateral contributions made by EU Member States. Based in Thessalonica.

www.ear.eu.int

EASA

The mission of the European Aviation Safety Agency is to assist the

Community in establishing and maintaining a high, uniform level of civil aviation safety and environmental protection in Europe; facilitating the free movement of goods, persons and services; promoting cost efficiency in the regulatory and certification processes; assisting Member States in fulfilling their ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) obligations on a common basis; and promoting world-wide Community views regarding civil aviation safety standards. Based in Cologne.

EBA

Everything But Arms, EU initiative, adopted in February 2001, opening of → EU markets to imports for all products from → LDCs, except arms.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/miti/devel/eba.htm>

EBRD

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development was set up in 1990 to provide loans for industrial and commercial projects in the Central and Eastern European Countries. Membership includes all the countries of the → EU and → OECD, as well as from Central and Eastern European countries. The → EU provided 51 % of the initial capital. The bank's headquarters are in London.

www.ebrd.com

EC

European Community/Communities

ECA

European Court of Auditors

www.eca.eu.int/en/menu.htm

ECA

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, established in 1958, is a branch of the → UN, mandated to support the economic and social development of its 53 member states.

www.uneca.org

ECB

The European Central Bank was inaugurated on 30 June 1998. On 1 January 1999 it took over responsibility for implementing European monetary policy as defined by the → ESCB. The ECB's decision-making bodies run the ESCB, whose tasks are to manage the money in circulation, conduct foreign-exchange operations, hold and manage the Member States' official foreign reserves, and promote the smooth operation of payment systems. The ECB took over from its precursor, the → EMI.

www.ecb.int

ECHO

The mandate of ECHO, the EU's Humanitarian Aid Office, is to

provide emergency assistance and relief to the victims of natural disasters or armed conflict outside the → EU. The aid is intended to go directly to those in distress, irrespective of race, religion or political convictions.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/en/present/about4.htm>

ECHR

A European Convention on Human Rights signed in Rome on 4 November 1950 established an unprecedented system of international protection for human rights, offering individuals the possibility of applying to the courts for the enforcement of their rights. The ECHR, ratified by all Member States, established a number of supervisory bodies based in Strasbourg.

www.echr.coe.int

ECIP

The European Community Investment Partners is a financial instrument made available by the → European Commission, to support the establishment of joint ventures, privatisation and private infrastructure projects in the developing economies of Asia, Latin America, the Mediterranean, and, since 1994, South Africa (ALAMEDSA).

www.eusa.org.za

ECJ

The Court of Justice of the European Communities (often referred to simply as “the Court”) was set up in 1952 under the Treaty of Paris (establishing the European Coal and Steel Community). Its job is to ensure that EU legislation (technically known as “Community law”) is interpreted and applied in the same way in each member state. In other words, that it is always identical for all parties and in all circumstances. The Court has the power to settle legal disputes between member states, EU institutions, businesses and individuals. Based in Luxembourg.

<http://curia.eu.int/en/transitpage.htm>

ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council was established as the principal organ of the → UN to promote (a) higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development; (b) solutions for international economic, social, health, and related problems as well as international cultural and educational co-operation; and (c) universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, regardless their race, sex, language, or religion.

www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/index.htm

ECOWAS

The Economic Community of West African States was constituted in 1975 by 15 West African countries and later (1977) joined by Cape Verde. Its objective was to provide a trade liberalisation programme and to bring about an eventual customs union. A common fund was established to promote development projects with specialised commissions for trade, industry, transport and social and cultural affairs.

www.ecowas.int

EC-PREP

The European Community’s Poverty Reduction Effectiveness Programme is a funded programme of research to enhance collaboration between the European Commission and the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Its main objective is to enhance the poverty impact of the European Community’s development assistance and contribute to achieving the International Development Target of halving the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

www.ec-prep.org

ECSC

European Coal and Steel Community, first treaty organisation of what has become the EU; established by the Treaty of Paris (1952). Also

known as the Schuman Plan, after the French foreign minister, Robert Schuman, who proposed it in 1950. Member nations pledged to pool their coal and steel resources by providing a unified market for their coal and steel products, lifting restrictions on imports and exports, and creating a unified labour market.

<http://europa.eu.int/abc/obj/treaties/en/entoc29.htm>

EMU

EMU → EURO

EDF

European Development Fund set up by the → EC in 1976 for the provision of financial aid to developing countries associated with the then EC (now EU) through the → Lomé Convention and the → Cotonou Agreement.

www.oneworld.org/odi/tropics/funds/EDF.htm

EDFI

The European Development Finance Institutions is a twelve-member-group providing long term finance for private sector development in developing and reforming economies.

www.edfi.be

EEA

The agreement on the European Economic Area extends the Single

Market of the EU to three out of the four → EFTA countries, namely Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Switzerland, while being a member of EFTA is not a Party to the EEA, having voted against membership in December 1992. Within the EEA there is free movement of goods, services, capital and persons. Citizens of all 18 countries have the right to move freely throughout the EEA – to live, work, set up business, invest or buy real estate, with a few minor limitations in certain sectors.

<http://secretariat.efta.int/euroeco>

EEA

The European Environment Agency started its activities during 1995. Based in Copenhagen, it has the mandate to collect and disseminate timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information on the state and trends of the environment at European level. The founding regulation of EEA stipulates that membership is opened to countries from outside the European Union, which share its concern for the environment. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have been members from the start, and the 13 accession countries joined in 2002.

www.eea.eu.int

EEC

The European Economic Community was established in 1958 by a

Treaty between Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany; it was known informally as the Common Market. The EEC was the most significant of the three treaty organisations that were consolidated in 1967 to form the European Community (EC; known since the ratification of the Maastricht treaty in 1993 as the EU). The EEC had as its aim the eventual economic union of its member nations, ultimately leading to political union. It worked for the free movement of labour and capital, the abolition of trusts and cartels, and the development of joint and reciprocal policies on labour, social welfare, agriculture, transport, and foreign trade.

EEIG

The European Economic Interest Grouping is a legal entity based on Community law to facilitate and encourage cross-border co-operation. The purpose of the grouping is to facilitate or develop the economic activities of its members by a pooling of resources, activities or skills. An EEIG can be formed by companies, firms and other legal entities governed by public or private law which have been formed in accordance to the law of a Member State and which have their registered office in the Community. It can also be formed

by individuals carrying on an industrial, commercial, craft or agricultural activity, or otherwise providing professional or other services into the Community. An EEIG must have at least two members from different Member States.

<http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/ivb/126015.htm>

EESC

The European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body of the → EC, set up in 1957 to represent the interests of the Community's citizens and composed of representatives of employers, workers, consumers, farmers, professional people, etc. of the member states. The EESC is a consultative assembly, part of the EU's institutional system and so provides a link between Europe and civil society.

www.ces.eu.int

EFA – FTI

The 'Education For All' Fast Track Initiative was launched in June 2002. Donor organisations agreed to help finance education programmes in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Mauritania, Nicaragua and Niger. New programmes will provide education for an extra 4 million children. The seven targeted countries are the first group of developing countries

to benefit from the initiative. They are part of a larger group of low- and middle-income countries, which would not otherwise achieve the goal for complete primary education by 2015, set at the Dakar Education Summit in July 2000.

www.unesco.org/education/efa/index.shtml

EFSA

The primary responsibility of the European Food Safety Authority is to provide independent scientific advice on all matters with a direct or indirect impact on food safety. It covers all stages of food production and supply, from primary production to the safety of animal feed, right through to the supply of food to consumers. The EFSA also surveys new scientific developments. A key task of this EU agency is to communicate directly with the public on its areas of responsibility. Based in Parma

www.efsa.eu.int

EFTA

Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are the current members of EFTA. The EFTA Convention established a free trade area amongst its Member States in 1960. The EFTA states have jointly concluded free trade agreements with several countries worldwide. In 1991 EFTA was linked with the EU to form the European Eco-

nomie Area, a single, free-trade grouping.

www.efta.int/structure/main/index.htm

EIA

Environmental Impact Assessment for projects (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment for policies, plans and programmes (SEA) ensure that significant environmental impacts are identified, assessed and taken into account in the decision-making process in which the public can participate.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/home.htm>

EIB

The European Investment Bank was set up in 1958 to finance capital investment projects promoting the balanced development of members of the → EC. Outside the Union, the EIB implements the financial components of agreements concluded under European development aid and co-operation policies.

www.eib.org

EIF

The European Investment Fund is a financial institution of the EU established in 1994 as a public private partnership (ppp) bringing together the European Commission, the European Investment Bank and 77 financial

institutions. Its essential business is to provide guarantees to banks and financial institutions funding investments in → TEN (Trans-European Networks) projects and → SMEs.

www.eif.org

EMCDDA

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, an EU agency, became operational in 1995 and published its first Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union in 1996. The mission of the Centre is to collect and disseminate “objective, reliable and comparable information” on the phenomenon of drugs and drug addiction in Europe. In order to do so, the Centre works in partnership with non-EU countries as well as with international organisations concerned by this issue. Based in Lisbon.

www.emcdda.org

EMEA

The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products’ main responsibility is the protection of public and animal health. It works as a network, bringing together the scientific resources of the → EU and → EEA → EFTA Member States to ensure the highest level of evaluation and supervision of medicines in Europe. The Agency co-operates closely

with international partners, reinforcing the EU contribution to global harmonisation. Based in London.

www.emea.eu.int

EMI

The creation of the European Monetary Institute (EMI) on 1 January 1994 marked the beginning of the second stage of → EMU (Economic and Monetary Union). The EMI was a transitional body; its mission was completed when the → European Central Bank (ECB) was established in 1998 and the final stage of EMU started.

EMS

The European Monetary System is an arrangement, organised in 1979, by which most EU members linked their currencies to prevent large fluctuations relative to one another. In 1994, the → EMI was created as a transitional step in establishing the → ECB and the common currency. In 1999, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain adopted a single currency, the Euro, for foreign exchange and electronic payments. (Greece subsequently also adopted the Euro.) Euro coins and notes were introduced into circulation in January 2002, and local currencies were no longer

accepted as legal tender two months later.

EMSA

The European Maritime Safety Agency, an EU agency, created in the aftermath of the “Erika” disaster, will contribute to the enhancement of the overall maritime safety system in the Community in order to reduce the risk of maritime accidents, marine pollution from ships and the loss of human lives at sea. It will provide technical and scientific advice to the Commission in the field of maritime safety and prevention of pollution by ships in the continuous process of updating and developing new legislation, monitoring its implementation and evaluating the effectiveness of the measures in place. Following the “Prestige” disaster severe EU-legislation has been adopted to improve maritime safety and to reduce pollution from ships. Will be based in Lisbon.

EMU

Formally adopted by the EU Treaty of 1992, Economic and Monetary Union designates the zone of countries within the EU which share the same monetary policy and currency – the → EURO. EMU began on 1 January 1999, when the EURO became a legal currency and the national currencies of 11 partic-

ipating countries became subdivisions of it.

<http://europa.eu.int/euro>

ENEA

European Nuclear Energy Agency

EP

The European Parliament represents, as stated by the 1957 Treaty of Rome, “the people of the States brought together in the European Community”. Some 375 million European citizens in 15 countries are now involved in the process of European integration through their 626 representatives in the EP. The European Parliament, whose legitimacy derives from direct universal suffrage and is elected every five years, has steadily acquired greater influence and power through a series of treaties, particularly the 1992 Maastricht Treaty and the 1997 Amsterdam Treaty. These two treaties have transformed the European Parliament from a purely consultative assembly into a legislative parliament, exercising powers similar to those of the national parliaments. Today, the European Parliament as an equal partner with the Council of Ministers, passes the majority of European laws – laws that affect the lives of Europe’s citizens. Based in Brussels and Strasbourg.

www.europarl.eu.int

EPA

In September 2002, the → EU and the → ACP countries officially opened negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements under the Framework of the → Cotonou Agreement. These negotiations, which are to be concluded by 2007, aim at refining the existing trade regime. The EPA's will enable the ACP Countries to become member of → WTO and thereby progressively integrate the world markets.

EPC

European political co-operation was introduced informally in 1970 (in response to the Davignon report) and formalised by the Single European Act with effect from 1987. Its objective is consultations between the Member States in foreign policy matters. The Member States have a regard for the views of the → EP and, wherever possible, take common positions in international organisations. EPC was superseded by the common foreign and security policy → CFSP in 1993 (Maastricht Treaty).

EPO

European Patent Office
www.european-patent-office.org/index.en.php

EPRD

In addition to contributions of the Member States, the European

Commission gave 125 million € per year within the framework of the 1997–1999 Multi-Annual Indicative Programme to development in South Africa under the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development. It is the largest single development programme in South Africa and the biggest such programme implemented by the → EU throughout the world.

www.eusa.org.za/Content/Development/TheEPRD.html

ERDF

The aim of the European Regional Development Fund is to promote economic and social cohesion by correcting the main regional imbalances and participating in the development and conversion of regions, while ensuring synergy with assistance from the other Structural Funds. In order to reduce the gap between the different levels of development of the various regions and the extent to which the least-favoured regions and islands (including rural areas) are lagging behind, the ERDF contributes to the harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of economic activity, to a high degree of competitiveness, higher levels of employment and environment protection as well as gender equality.

<http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l60015.htm>

ESCAP

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is the only inter-governmental forum for all countries of the Asian and Pacific region. It gives technical support to member governments for socio-economic development.

www.unescap.org/index.html

ESCB

The European System of Central Banks is composed of the → ECB and the national central banks (NCBs) of the EU Member States. The “Eurosystem” is the term used to refer to the ECB and the NCBs of the Member States which have adopted the Euro. The NCBs of the Member States which do not participate in the Euro area are however members of the ESCB with a special status – while they are allowed to conduct their respective national monetary policies, they do not take part in the decision-making regarding the single monetary policy for the Euro area and the implementation of such decisions.

www.ecb.int/about/escb.htm

ESF

The European Social Fund is the main financial instrument to finance EU actions in the field of employment policy. Already set up by the Treaty of Rome, it is the

longest established Structural Fund. For over 40 years, it has invested, in partnership with the Member States, in programmes to develop people's skills and their potential for work.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/esf2000/introduction-en.htm

ETF

The European Training Foundation is an EU agency. It assists partner countries in reforming and modernising their vocational education and their training and employment systems within the framework of the EU's external relations policies. Its partner countries and territories are those eligible to participate in the EU's Phare, CARDS, Tacis and MEDA Programmes. The Foundation works in partnership with EU institutions, Member States and major development agencies. Based in Turin.

www.etf.eu.int/etfweb.nsf/pages/

ETFAG

European Tropical Forestry Advisor Group

EU

The European Union, established on 1 January 1995, is built on an institutional system, the only one of its kind in the world. The Member States delegate sovereignty for certain matters to independent institutions which represent the

interests of the Union as a whole, its member countries and its citizens. The Commission traditionally upholds the interests of the Union, while each national government is represented within the Council. The European Parliament is directly elected by citizens. Democracy and the rule of law are the cornerstones of the structure. This “institutional triangle” is flanked by two other institutions: the Court of Justice and the Court of Auditors. Five further bodies make the system complete.

<http://europa.eu.int>

EUFORIC

Europe's Forum on International Co-operation is an independent non-profit Internet platform on European development co-operation policies and related issues. Members include research organisations, NGOs, advisory groups, governmental agencies and NGO networks.

www.euforic.org

EUMC

The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, an EU agency, started its activities in 1998. Its primary task is to provide the Community and its Member States with objective, reliable and comparable information and data on racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitic phenomena at the Euro-

pean level in order to establish measures or actions against racism and xenophobia. Based in Vienna.

www.eumc.eu.int

EU-OSHA

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work develops, analyses and disseminates information that improves occupational safety and health (OSH) in Europe. It co-operates with other agencies involved in facilitating social dialogue, the relevant Directorate Generals of the European Commission, as well as similar organisations beyond Europe in the candidate countries. An Administrative Board on which the trade unions, employers' organisations, national governments and the European Commission are represented runs the Agency. Based in Bilbao.

<http://europe.osha.eu.int>

EURO

Single currency of the European Monetary Union, adopted by 11 Member States on 1 January 1999. The 11 Member States are Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland. Greece became the 12th Member State to adopt the Euro on 1 January 2001. The name “EURO” was chosen by the Euro-

pean Heads of State or Government at the European Council meeting in Madrid in December 1995. The symbol was registered with international standards agencies.

<http://europa.eu.int/euro>

EUROFOUND

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, established in 1975, is a tripartite EU agency set up to provide solid advice to social policy makers, analysis on living and working conditions, reports on developments and trends and contributions on improving quality of life. Based in Dublin

www.eurofound.eu.int

EUR-OP

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. Based in Luxembourg.

<http://publications.eu.int>

EuropeAid

Set up on 1 January 2001, EuropeAid's mission is to implement the external aid instruments of the European Commission, funded by the European Community budget and the European Development Fund. The office is responsible for completing the projects, which ensures the achievement of the programme's objectives established by the

Directorates-General for External Relations, Development and Enlargement.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid>

European Commission

It is the single executive body formed in 1967 from the three separate executive bodies of the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Atomic Energy Community, and the European Economic Community. It now consists of 20 commissioners: two each from the UK, France, Germany, Spain, and Italy; and one each from Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Ireland, Denmark, Greece, Portugal, Austria, Finland, and Sweden. The Commissioners accept common responsibility for their decisions, taken on majority vote basis. The Commission initiates and implements → EU legislation and mediates between member states' governments.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm

Eurostat

The statistical office of the European Union

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat>

FAO

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the → UN, offers practical help to developing countries through a wide range of technical assistance projects. The organisation encour-

ages an integrated approach, with environmental, social and economic considerations included in the formulation of development projects. It has 180 member countries plus one member organisation, the EC.

www.fao.org

FAWE

The Forum for African Women Educationalists brings together African women ministers in charge of national education systems, women vice chancellors of universities and other senior women policy makers in education in Africa.

www.fawe.org

FDI

Foreign Direct Investment

FLEGT

To fulfil a commitment taken adopted in Johannesburg, the Commission adopted in May 2003 an EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), that sets out a package of measures linking governance reforms in producer countries with the legal framework of the internal EU market. The Action Plan involves a series of voluntary (but binding) partnerships agreements with wood-producing countries and regions. Through these partnerships, the EU and partner countries will set up a licensing scheme to

ensure that all timber exports to Europe are legal. The partnerships will also encourage governance reforms in wood-producing countries, particularly to promote greater equity and transparency in association with forest harvesting operations.

FRANCOPHONIE

Established in 1970, the “Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie” is the leading operator of the “Organisation internationale de la Francophonie”. Currently the agency consists of 50 states and governments. It promotes multilateral co-operation, the dialogue of cultures and development.

http://agence.francophonie.org/b_home.cfm

FTA

A group of trading countries eventually joined to create a Free Trade Area by scrapping tariff barriers between themselves in order to increase mutual trade, internal efficiency and economic expansion.

G77

Group of 77

www.g77.org

GATS

General Agreement on Trade in Services

www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_e/gats_factfiction_e.htm

GATT

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was designed to provide an international forum that encouraged free trade between member states by regulating and reducing tariffs on traded goods and by providing a common mechanism for resolving trade disputes. In 1995, the GATT was transformed into the World Trade Organisation → WTO.

www.gatt.org

GCA

The Global Coalition for Africa is a forum dedicated to forging policy consensus on development priorities among African governments, their northern partners and → NGOs working in and on Africa.

www.gca-cma.org

GDI

The Gender Development Index includes the same basic data included in the → HDI – such as life expectancy at birth, access to education and per capita product – but focuses on the differences between men and women in these areas as a way to measure the status of the female population in each country.

GEF

The Global Environment Facility, launched in 1991, forges international co-operation and finances actions to address four critical

threats to the global environment: biodiversity loss, climate change, degradation of international waters, and ozone depletion.

www.gefweb.org

GEM

The Gender Empowerment Measure uses variables explicitly created to measure the relative empowerment of men and women in the political and economic spheres. The number and percentage of women in parliament, in leadership and managerial positions, in professional and technical jobs, and the per capita product specifically of the female population are among the gender empowerment indicators.

GIS

Geographical Information Systems allows technology to be used for scientific investigations, resource management, and development planning. It is a computer system capable of assembling, storing, manipulating, and displaying geographically referenced information. Practitioners also regard the total GIS as including operating personnel and the data that go into the system.

www.usgs.gov/research/gis/title.html

GNP

The Gross National Product is the total US\$ value of all final goods

and services produced for consumption in a certain society during a particular period of time. Its fluctuations measure economic activity based on the labour and production output within a country. The figures used to assemble data include the manufacture of tangible goods such as cars, furniture, and bread, and the provision of services used in daily living such as education, health care, and auto repair. Intermediate services used in the production of the final product are not separated since they are reflected in the final price of the goods or service. The GNP includes allowances for depreciation and indirect business taxes such as those on sales and property.

GR

The term Green Revolution refers mainly to dramatic increases in cereal-grain yields in many developing countries beginning in the late 1960s, due to the use of genetically improved varieties, such as broadly adapted, short stemmed, disease-resistant wheat. Recent research responds to criticism that the GR depends on fertilizers, irrigation, and other factors that poor farmers cannot afford and that may be ecologically harmful; and that it promotes monocultures and loss of genetic diversity.

GSP

The Generalised System of Preferences is an UNCTAD initiative under which industrialised countries grant autonomous and non-reciprocal trade preferences to developing countries. The EU was the first to implement its own GSP in 1971. 179 countries are currently eligible.

Habitat

An UN agency for human settlements mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

www.unchcs.org

HAC

Humanitarian Aid Committee

HDI

The Human Development Index, published annually by the UN, ranks nations according to their citizens' quality of life rather than strictly by a nation's traditional economic figures. The criteria for calculating rankings include life expectancy, educational attainment, and adjusted real income.

HIPC

Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative, entails coordinated action by the international financial

community to reduce to sustainable levels the external debt burden of heavily indebted countries.

www.worldbank.org/hipc

HRD

Human Resource Development

HSD

Human and Social Development

IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency, founded in 1957, the world's foremost intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

www.iaea.org

IBRD

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) provides loans and development assistance to middle-income countries and credit-worthy poorer countries. It is not a profit maximising organisation but has earned a net income every year since 1948.

www.worldbank.org

ICDA

International Coalition for Development Action is both a coalition of mainly non-governmental development organisations in OECD countries, as well as an advocacy → NGO. Strong links to other NGOs

and networks in the South. Committed to building a more just and equitable international order, with specific focus on trade and trade related issues.

www.icda.be

ICFTU

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, established in 1949, a confederation of national trade union centres, each of which links together the trade unions of that particular country.

www.icftu.org

ICTSD

The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, established in Geneva in September 1996, contributes to a better understanding of development and environment concerns in the context of international trade.

www.ictsd.org

IDA

Established in 1960, the International Development Association is the World Bank Group's concessional lending window. It provides long-term loans at zero interest to the poorest of the developing countries. IDA supports efficient and effective programmes to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life in its poorest member countries.

www.worldbank.org/ida/

IDEA

The Electronic directory of the European institutions is a guide to the administrative structure of the European institutions. IDEA is a reliable source of information concerning the names and addresses of high-ranking EU civil servants. A paper edition is also published once a year.

<http://europa.eu.int/idea/index.htm>

IDRC

Founded in 1961 the International Development Research Council is a professional association for executives managing corporate assets, including corporate real estate, facilities, information technology, human resources, finance and other support units that define corporate infrastructure.

www.idrc.org

IEFR

International Emergency Food Reserve

IEPPFD

The Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, proposed in 1998, is composed of all-party parliamentary groups dealing with population, development and sexual and reproductive health and rights issues.

www.europartyvoices.com/index.htm

IFAD

Established in 1977, the International Fund for Agricultural Development is a mandate to combat hunger and rural poverty in developing countries.

www.ifad.org

IFC

Established in 1956 as a member of the World Bank Group, the International Finance Corporation promotes sustainable private sector investment in developing countries as a way to reduce poverty and improve people's lives.

www.ifc.org

IFPRI

The mission of the International Food Policy Research Institute is to identify and analyse policies to meet sustainable nutrition needs in the developing world. Research concentrates on economic growth and poverty alleviation in low income countries, improvement of the well-being of poor people, and sound management of the natural resource base that supports agriculture.

<http://www.ifpri.cgiar.org/>

IFUW

International Federation of University Women, established in 1919 to advocate for the improvement of the status of girls and women, promote lifelong learning, enable

graduated women to use their expertise to effect change.

www.ifuw.org

IGAD

Inter-governmental Authority on Development, created in 1986 by the six drought stricken countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda to coordinate development in the Horn of Africa.

www.igadregion.org

IGC (EU)

The Inter-governmental Conference is a regular meeting of the → EU member governments called for the purpose of making changes in the Treaty of Rome. An Inter-governmental Conference was convened for the adoption of the Maastricht Treaty and its successor, the Amsterdam Treaty.

<http://europa.eu.int/igc2000>

IISS

The International Institute for Strategic Studies, founded in 1958, is an independent centre for research, information and debate on conflict problems. Its work is grounded in an appreciation of the various political, economic and social problems that can lead to instability as well as factors that can lead to international co-operation.

www.iiss.org

ILMTC

International Lawyers for Multi-lateral Trade Co-operation, a project launched by the → UNCTAD to steer the developing countries through an increasingly rule oriented global environment.

ILO

International Labour Organisation, founded in 1919, specialised → UN agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognised human and labour rights. The ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of conventions and recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labour rights.

www.ilo.org

IMF

The International Monetary Fund, founded in 1946, consists of 183 members and promotes international monetary co-operation, exchange stability, and orderly exchange arrangements to foster economic growth and high levels of employment and provides temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease balance of payments adjustment.

www.imf.org

IOC

The Indian Ocean Commission unites four → ACP countries and a

European overseas region. Established in 1984, the IOC was originally formed by Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. In January 1986, it was joined by the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros and the overseas department of France, Reunion.

<http://coi.intnet.mu>

IOM

The International Organisation for Migration is an inter-governmental body, that assists in meeting the operational challenges of migration and encourages social and economic development through migration.

www.iom.int

IPPF

The International Planned Parenthood Federation promotes the right of women and men to decide freely the number and spacing of their children and the right to the highest possible level of sexual and reproductive health.

www.ippf.org

IPU

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is the world organisation of parliaments of sovereign states. Established in 1889, it works for peace and co-operation among people and for the firm establishment of representative democracy.

www.ipu.org

ISNAR

The International Service for National Agricultural Research supports the institutional development of agricultural research in developing countries.

www.cgiar.org/isnar

ITTO

The International Tropical Timber Organisation was created in 1983 to provide an effective framework for consultation among producer and consumer member countries on all aspects of the world timber economy within its mandate.

www.itto.or.jp

ITU

International Telecommunication Union is an international organisation within which governments and the private sector coordinate global telecom networks and services.

www.itu.int/home/

LAC

Latin America and the Caribbean

LDCs (UN)

49 countries are currently designated by the → UN as the so-called “least developed countries”. The list is reviewed every three years by the Economic and Social Council (→ ECOSOC). The criteria underlying the current list of LDCs are: a low per capita income, weak

human resources, a low level of industrialisation and economic diversification.

www.un.org/events/ldc3/conference

LDLIC

Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Countries

LICs

Low Income Countries

LIFDC

The list of Low Income Food Deficit Countries was developed by → FAO in the late 1970s to assist in analysing and discussing food security issues. LIFDCs are currently defined as nations that are poor (net income per person less than US\$ 1,395) and that are net importers of food – with imports of basic foodstuffs outweighing exports over the past three years. In many cases, particularly in Africa, these countries cannot produce enough food to meet all their needs and lack sufficient foreign exchange to fill the gap by purchasing food on the international market.

www.fao.org/focus/e/SpeclPr/

LIFDCs.htm

Lomé Convention

Ties with the → ACP countries, governed since 1975 by the regularly adapted and updated Lomé Convention, are a particular

mainstay aspect of the EU's development co-operation policy and of its external broadly actions. Its main characteristics are: the partnership principle, the contractual nature of the relationship, and the combination of aid, trade and political aspects, together with its long-term perspective (five years for Lomé I (1979), II, and III , and ten for Lomé IV, revised in 1995). The new EU-ACP agreement was signed on 23 June 2000 in Cotonou (Benin).

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/>

development/cotonou/lome_history_en.htm

LRRD

The → European Commission has adopted a Communication on Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development which sets out a series of practical measures designed to bridge the gap between emergency and development assistance.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/>

development/recueil/en/en16/en16.htm

MEDA

The Mediterranean Region Assistance Programme is the principal financial instrument of the European Union for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The programme offers technical and financial support measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures

in the Mediterranean partner countries.

MEP

Member of the European Parliament

MIGA

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency is a World Bank agency. It was established in 1985 to enhance Foreign Direct Investment → (FDI) in developing countries; insure investments and transfer of technology and know-how against commercial risks in developing countries, policies and objectives, on the basis of fair and stable standards for the treatment of foreign investment.

www.miga.org

NAFTA

The North American Free Trade Agreement, an economic pact permitting free trade between the USA, Canada, and Mexico, entered into force in 1994. It provides for the complete removal on all trade tariffs between the member countries, with tariffs on agricultural products to be phased out.

www.nafta-sec-alena.org

NAO

National Authorising Officer, the representative of an ACP country in all operations financed under the

→ Lomé Convention and
→ Cotonou Agreement.

NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was founded in 1949. Its headquarters are located in Brussels. The NATO has 19 members: the EU Member States (with the exception of Austria, Finland, Ireland and Sweden), Canada, the United States, Iceland, Norway and Turkey, and, since 12 March 1999, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The policy of the Union respects the obligations of certain Member States arising out of NATO membership and is compatible with the common security and defence policy agreed in NATO. The Declaration on the Western European Union annexed to the EU Treaty, clarifies future NATO–WEU relations. It stands as the defence arm of the Union and as a means of strengthening the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance.

www.nato.int

NGO

A Non-Governmental Organisation is a non-profit, voluntary citizens' group independent from government, organised on a local, national or international level (INGO). NGOs perform a variety of services in different fields (environment, develop-

ment (Non-Governmental Development Organisations – NGOs) etc.) and humanitarian functions, advocate citizens' concerns to Governments, contribute to the monitoring of policies and encourage political participation at the community level. Over 1,500 NGOs with strong information programmes on issues of concern to the → UN are associated with the Department of Public Information (DPI), providing the UN with valuable links to people around the world.

www.un.org

NIC

A Newly Industrialised Country, which is not a developing country, has not yet achieved the status of the economically advanced countries. Malaysia and Mexico are usually counted as NICs, but some earlier examples, e.g. Singapore, have a per capita income similar to the the one of the → OECD members.

NIP

National Indicative Programme, a programming document for the implementation of resources under the → Lomé Convention and → Cotonou Agreement for all ACP countries.

NIS

New Independent States (of the former Soviet Union)

NRM

Natural Resources Management

NSSD

National Strategies for Sustainable Development, started in 1992 to prepare the project's goal: To encourage the implementation of NSSDs in all countries by 2005, so as to ensure that current trends in the loss of environmental resources are effectively reversed at both global and national levels by 2015.

www.nssd.net/index1.html

OAU

→ AU (Organisation of African Unity)

www.oau-oua.org

OCT

20 Overseas Countries and Territories which are associated with the → EU.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/oct/index_en.htm

ODA

Official Development Assistance

ODI

Overseas Development Institute

OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is an international organisation of economically developed countries

established in 1961 for the purpose of promoting economic and social welfare within the member countries and stimulating aid to developing countries. It replaced the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation, established in 1948. The organisation counts 30 member states.

www.oecd.org

OECS

Members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States include Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Montserrat. Observers include Anguilla and British Virgin Islands.

OHCHR

The mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is to protect and promote human rights for all.

www.unhchr.ch

OHIM

The Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs) is an EU agency and carries out registration procedures for Community trade marks and for Community designs. The Community trade mark is a gateway to a single market, covering all the countries of the EU, meaning that formalities and management can be kept simple: A single application, a

single administrative centre and a single file to be managed. A uniform law applies to trade marks, thereby providing strong and unique protection throughout the EU. Based in Alicante.

<http://oami.eu.int>

OJ

The Official Journal of the European Communities (includes L, C and S series) is the only periodical published every working day in all 20 official languages of the EU. It consists of two related series (L for legislation and C for information and notices) and a supplement (S for public tenders). There is also an electronic section to the C series, known as the OJ C E. Documents published in the OJ C E are only published electronically.

OLAF

Since 1 June 1999, the European Anti-fraud Office has been responsible for combating fraud against the EU budget. It replaces the Co-ordination of Fraud Prevention Unit (UCLAF) in the Commission, set up in 1998 and confined to that one institution.

OLAS

On Line Accounting System

Paris Club

Is an informal group of official creditors whose role is to find

coordinated and sustainable solutions to the payment difficulties experienced by debtor nations.

PCA

The formalisation of bilateral relations between the EU and partner countries has been achieved through Partnership and Co-operation Agreements, now in force with ten Eastern European and Central Asian countries. PCAs are legal frameworks, based on the respect of democratic principles and human rights, setting out the political, economic and trade relationship between the EU and its partner countries. Each PCA is a ten-year bilateral treaty signed and ratified by the EU and the individual state.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/ceeca/pca/index.htm

Phare

EU programme of financial and technical support for Central and Eastern European Countries

PICS

Project Information and Control System

POPIN

United Nations Population Information Network, founded in 1979, to identify, establish, strengthen and coordinate population information activities at international, regional

and national levels; to facilitate and enhance the availability of information to society in collaboration with the regional commissions, the specialised agencies and the → NGO population community; and to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among developed and developing countries on population information issues.

www.un.org/popin

PPP

Purchasing Power Parity

PRSP

In September 1999 the World Bank Group and → IMF agreed that country-owned poverty reduction strategies should provide the basis for all → World Bank (IDA) and IMF concessional lending as well as debt relief under → HIPC. These strategies are reflected in a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), an annually updated document that the country prepares in collaboration with the Bank and IMF.

www.worldbank.org/whatwedo/strategies.htm#prs

RELEX

The External Relations Directorate-General is a new department of the European Commission which arose from the fundamental restructuring of the Commission at the end of 1999; it is in charge of relations

with European countries not members of the European Union and not part of the enlargement process.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations

REP

Regional Environment Programme

REPAs

The WTO-compatible Regional Economic Partnership Agreements are intended to nurture the regional integration between → ACP countries and to help make economic reforms mutually supportive and irreversible. REPAs will be achieved in two phases: a preparatory phase (up to 2008) to strengthen regional economic co-operation and lead to negotiated agreements with the → EU and an implementation period (up to 2020). In the meantime → ACP countries continue to enjoy duty-free access on the bulk of their exports to the EU market under the existing → Lomé Convention.

RIP

Regional Indicative Programme, a programming document for the implementation of resources under the → Lomé Convention and → Cotonou Agreement for each ACP region.

RSS

Regional Support Strategy

SACU

The Southern African Customs Union came into existence in 1969 with the signature of the Customs Union Agreement between South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland and entered into force in 1970. Its aim is to maintain the free interchange of goods between member countries. It provides for a common external tariff and a common excise tariff to this common customs area.

www.dfa.gov.za/index.html

SADC

Southern African Development Co-operation

www.sadc.int

SAF

The Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) and its precursor, the Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF), were both set up to assist low-income countries in addressing deep-seated and persistent economic problems. These initiatives are part of a broader effort involving support from the → World Bank and other agencies and donors in the international community.

www.worldbank.org

SANF

Southern African National Foundation

SEA

Strategic Environmental Assessment for policies, plans and programmes → EIA.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/home.htm>

SIA

Sustainability Impact Assessment

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/>

SMAP

Short and Medium-Term environmental Action Programme

SMEs

The term “Small and Medium Enterprises” refers to independent businesses managed by their owners or part-owners and having a small market share. In 1996, the European Commission set out a single definition of SMEs: micro enterprise: 1–9 employees; small: 10–49; medium: 50–249.

SPA

Strategic Partnership for Africa provides a framework for the donor community to help African countries recover from a deep economic crisis and achieve significant improvements in economic performance. It coordinates resources to support economic reforms and works to improve donor policies and practices for greater aid effectiveness.

www.spa-psa.org

SPA

Special Programme of Assistance to the Sub-Saharan Africa Indebted Countries, initiated by the world bank.

SSA

Sub-Saharan Africa

STABEX

System for the Stabilisation of Export earnings from agricultural commodities, → Lomé Convention.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/cotonou/lome_history_en.htm

SWAP

Improve the allocation of national budget and donor flows, both within and between sectors. Sector Wide Approaches in health promotes the equitable, sustainable and efficient use of all available, national and external resources in order to achieve sustained improvements in the access to social services, such as education and health, and in the well-being of poor people and other excluded and vulnerable groups.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/development>

SYSMIN

Is a special financing facility intended for African, Caribbean, and Pacific Ocean states (→ ACP) whose mining sector plays a major role in their economy and is faced with known or foreseeable difficul-

ties. SYSMIN aims at contributing to the setting-up of a more solid and even wider base for the development of ACP states by supporting their efforts → Lomé Convention. Under the Cotonou Agreement, SYSMIN and → STABEX have been replaced by an improved instrument for cases of export losses.

www.acpsec.org

TACIS

Launched by the EC in 1991, the Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States Programme provides grant financed technical assistance to 13 countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan), and mainly aims at enhancing the transition process in these countries.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/ceeca/tacis/index.htm

TAIEX

The Technical Assistance Exchange Office deals with the public administrations in the accession countries and the Member States. It provides the legal texts of the Community *acquis* and organises training seminars and visits by experts to countries which so

request. It has a key role in the process of assessing whether the legislation of the countries conforms with Community legislation (screening).

Tarif

The Tarif Intégré de la Communauté (Integrated Community Tariff) is an instrument created at the same time as the → CN, containing a nomenclature in all 11 official languages with about 15,000 tariff lines. It shows all third country and preferential duty rates actually applicable as well as all commercial policy measures. The use of the TARIC codes is obligatory in customs and statistical declarations in trade with third countries.

TCARC

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation aims at advancing agricultural and rural development in → ACP countries by promoting the transfer, exchange and utilisation of information, → Lomé Convention.

www.agricta.org

TEN

Trans-European Networks in transport, energy and telecommunications allow the physical movement of goods and persons and consolidate economic and social cohesion with a potential

impact on job creation, directly by means of the work involved and indirectly by encouraging economic growth.

TFAP

The Tropical Forest Action Plan, serves as an international framework for the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests as well as forest resources assessment on a global scale, TFAP is conducted by the → FAO.

TICAD

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development is a regional initiative for Africa started in 1993 through the joint support by the Government of Japan, the → UN and the → GCA. It involves a variety of stakeholders including all African countries, Asian and donor countries as Africa's development partners, international agencies and the civil society.

www.undp.org/ticad

TRIPS

Trade-related aspects of Intellectual Property rights

UN

The United Nations is an organisation of 191 member countries set up in 1945 to promote peace, security, and co-operation. Administered by a secretariat headed by

the Secretary-General, the chief deliberative body is the General Assembly, in which each member state has one vote; recommendations are passed but are not binding on members. The Security Council bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security, and may call on member states to take military or economic action to enforce its decisions. Other bodies carry out the functions of the UN with regard to international economic, social, judicial, cultural, educational, health, and other matters.

www.un.org

UNAIDS

The joint UN Programme on HIV-AIDS was established in 1996. The joint and co-sponsored programme of UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, UNDCP and World Bank, is designed to catalyse, strengthen and orchestrate the unique expertise, resources, and networks of influence that each of these organisations offers.

www.unaids.org

UNCDF

The United Nations Capital Development Fund was established in 1966 and works to help eradicate poverty through local development programmes and microfinance operations.

www.uncdf.org

UNCED

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

www.unep.org/unep/partners/un/unced/home.htm

UNCTAD

The UN Conference on Trade and Development is the principal organ of the UN General Assembly in the field of trade and development. Its goals are to maximise trade, investment, and development opportunities of developing countries to help them face challenges arising from globalisation and integrate them into the world economy on an equitable basis.

www.unctad.org

UNDCP

UN international Drug Control Programme works to educate the world about the dangers of drug abuse.

www.undcp.org

UNDP

United Nations Development Programme, the UN's principal provider of development advice, advocacy and grant support. Its focus is on providing developing countries with knowledge-based consulting services and building national, regional and global coalitions for change.

www.undp.org

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme aims at providing leadership and encouraging partnership in caring for the environment by enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

www.unep.org

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation contributes to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication.

www.unesco.org

UNFPA

United Nations Fund for Population Activities is the largest internationally funded source of population assistance to developing countries. Its main tasks are demographic data survey, design of demographic policy, and family planning.

www.unfpa.org

UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees advocates justice and humanitarian aid for all refugees. Since 1950 the agency has helped an estimated 50 million people.

www.unhcr.ch

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund advocates the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

www.unicef.org

UNIDO

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, works with governments, business associations and individual companies in developing countries to solve difficulties in the industrial sector and equip them to help themselves. Its mission is to help countries pursue sustainable industrial development.

www.unido.org

UNIFEM

The United Nations Development Fund for Women serves as a bridge between global policy makers and women in the developing world. It supports efforts of women in the developing world to achieve their objective for economic, political and social development, and helps them in their quest for equal human rights.

www.unifem.org

UNRISD

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, founded in 1963, with a mandate to conduct

research on problems and policies of social development and economic development.

www.unrisd.org

UNV

United Nations Volunteers serve as an operational partner in development co-operation at the request of UN member states.

www.unv.org

UPU

Universal Postal Union, founded in 1948, takes an active part in follow-up initiatives arising from global conferences organised under → UN auspices.

www.upu.int

URB-AL

adopted by the EU in December 1995, is a decentralised co-operation programme aimed at towns, urban areas and other regions in the EU and Latin America.

www.urb-al.com

WACAP

World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty, established in 1998, promotes decentralised co-operation between Northern and Southern cities.

www.wacap-forum.ch

WAEMU

Formerly known as the West African Monetary Union (WAMU),

the West African Economic and Monetary Union was founded in 1994 in response to the devaluation of the common currency, the CFA Franc. The treaty establishing WAEMU came into effect in 1994 after ratification by the seven member countries, thereby also replacing the West African Economic Union (WAEU).

WASME

World Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, established in 1980, is the largest professionally managed global non-governmental organisation with member and associates in 112 countries.

www.wasmeinfo.org

WB

Founded in 1944, the World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of development assistance. The Bank is now working in more than 100 developing economies, bringing a mix of finance and ideas to improve living standards and eliminate the worst forms of poverty.

www.worldbank.org

WEU

The Western European Union was set up in 1948 for the purposes of co-operation on defence and security. It consists of 28 countries with four different types of status/

Member States, associate members, observers and associate partners. The EU countries have the status of Member State (except Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden, which have observer status). The Treaty on European Union raised WEU to the rank of an "integral part of the development of the Union", while preserving its institutional autonomy, and gave it the task of elaborating and implementing decisions and actions with defence implications.

www.weu.int

WFP

World Food Programme, established in 1963, world's largest international food aid organisation mission: To save the lives of people caught up in humanitarian crises, to support the most vulnerable people at the most critical times of their lives, to help the hungry poor become self-reliant and build assets.

www.wfp.org

WHO

The World Health Organisation's objective is the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health.

www.who.int

WIPO

World Intellectual Property Organisation, dedicated to promoting the

use and protection of works of the human spirit.

www.wipo.org

WMO

World Meteorological Organisation, established in 1947, coordinates global scientific activity to allow increasingly prompt and accurate weather information and other services for public, private and commercial use.

www.wmo.ch

World Tourism Organisation

The World Tourism Organisation is an inter-governmental body entrusted by the → UN towards the promotion and development of tourism. Through tourism, it aims to stimulate economic growth and job creation, provide incentives for protecting the environment and heritage of destinations, and promote peace and understanding among all the nations of the world.

www.world-tourism.org

WTO

World Trade Organisation, only global international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. Its goal is to

help producers of goods and services, exporters and importers conduct their business. WTO has 146 member states (2003).

www.wto.org

Imprint

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Published in 2004