

**"FICHE CONTRADICTOIRE"**

**Evaluation of the Commission's co-operation with the region of Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (ESA-IO)**

Recommendations:	Responses of Commission Services:	Follow-up (one year later):
<b>MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
<b>CLUSTER 1: STRATEGY &amp; GLOBAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE ESA-IO PROGRAMME</b>		
<p><b>1. The 10<sup>th</sup> EDF should clearly stress that the general strategy will be based on strengthening the specific capacity of each RIO involved and on enhancing dialogue, cooperation and harmonisation between RIOs.</b></p>	<p><b>Agreed.</b> The Regional Strategy Paper which guides the implementation of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF includes the strengthening of the capacities of the RIOs as one of the priorities. In this respect, the Phase II for the RISP programme which is part of the 2009 AAP has a specific result area dedicated to capacity building in the RIOs. This will notably focus on those elements which are critical for an RIO to be eligible to a Contribution Agreement (CA), a way of further enhancing cooperation and harmonisation by entrusting full ownership of the EDF funding to the RIOs concerned as has been experienced to date with COMESA.</p>	
<p>1.1 Increase RIOs ownership by focusing on capacity building and on the provision of support to RIOs strategies</p>	<p><b>Agreed.</b> Ownership is at the heart of the approach under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF, both in terms of support offered to the secretariats and the strategic orientation of policies.</p> <p>The EDF10 RSP seeks to increase the use and eligibility to CAs, allowing the RIOs to use their own procedures to implement programmes. This builds capacity in the RIOs and promotes ownership of programmes.</p> <p>Under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF 1 M Euro was contracted especially for capacity development/reform of IGAD's internal structures. The EAC secretariat is also the beneficiary of a programme of capacity building (which is funded collectively by several donors, including the EC).</p> <p>The 10<sup>th</sup> EDF RSP covers 2 focal areas aimed at providing support to RIO strategies in the area of economic integration and political integration. The intention throughout is to support the integration process that the RIOs have set themselves, in particular the economic integration agenda of COMESA and EAC.</p> <p>In a similar vein, the tri-partite process (COMESA, EAC and SACD) is being actively supported by the current RISP programme, and the RISP Continuation programme will also support this process in the future. This will help resolve the difficulty of having overlapping memberships as the FTA and CU are approached.</p>	
<p>1.2 RIOs harmonisation and coordination: inter-RIO agreements and stronger role of the IRCC</p>	<p><b>Agreed.</b> The Inter-regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) aims to improve coordination of EDF resources among the four ESA-IO RIOs;</p>	

	<p>the 9<sup>th</sup> (and 10<sup>th</sup>) EDF offer financial support for the secretariat.</p> <p>The programming process for the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF has insisted upon programmes being initiated by the RIOs; furthermore, insistence has been upon multi-RIO programmes, to ensure co-ordination and harmonisation between the RIOs. All programme proposals have been discussed in the IRCC.</p> <p>The IRCC adopted revised ToRs for at the last IRCC meeting in January 2009 in order to strengthen its functioning. The new ToRs enhance the IRCC co-ordination role among the members, but also in terms of improving coherence between national policy and regional policy decisions and implementation in practice. The IRCC will similarly play an important (and enhanced) role in the design of regional Aid for trade Packages, which will be an important addition to the RSP over the coming years.</p>	
<b>CLUSTER 5: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
<p><b>5A. The EC should support the preparation of a strategy and programme that includes a credible match between objectives, prioritisation and funding of support programmes, and a significant share of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF allocation should be allocated to infrastructure facilitation funds.</b></p>	<p><b>Agreed.</b> In support of the programme, Commissioner Ashton attended the N-S corridor conference where a pledge was made before 450 participants including 4 presidents, 50 Ministers from the 8 countries and the RIOs concerned with the N-S Corridor. The North South Corridor project has been put forward under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF with an amount of €60 M.</p> <p>An important study has been launched designed to support the selection and implementation of a large regional infrastructure project under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF. The aim of the study is to allow the definition of a transport and communications strategy and project pipeline, and so facilitate the choice of the project.</p> <p>The strategy referring to the use of infrastructure funds (COMESA and EAC Funds) as possible recipient of EDF contributions is seen as a possible implementing modality which should strengthen the REC's ownership and facilitate their coordination role. However, this approach raises doubts about the proliferation of these funds, and the added value of transferring EDF money rather than on the EU Trust Fund etc.</p> <p>In addition, the use of these Funds could make implementation of projects and programme less flexible that by using EDF procedure.</p>	
<p><b>5B. Regular regional consultation mechanisms should be established to facilitate sector strategies and programmes including the articulation of inter-modal strategies</b></p>		
<p>5B.1 Establishment of regular consultation mechanisms</p>	<p><b>Agreed.</b> Consultations mechanism are certainly key tools to improve coordination and harmonization amongst the various country, but it should clearly appear that the EC could play only a facilitation role while the main responsibility for the establishment remains with the RECs.</p>	

5B.2 Articulation of inter-modal strategies	<b>Agreed.</b> Inter-modal transports is on top of the EC agenda since many years and under the 10th EDF the first programmes following this approach shall be put in place (see the North-South Corridor).	
<b>CLUSTER 7: CONFLICT PREVENTION, RESOLUTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>		
<b>7. EC/EU approaches and priorities on CPRM at regional and sub-regional level should be clarified, and CPRM capacity should be strengthened to ensure that conflict sensitivity is integrated into strategy, and programme formulation and implementation.</b>	<b>Agreed.</b> The AUC is part of the continental strategy on peace and security and has been fully associated with the project.	
7.1. EC/EU approaches and priorities on CPRM at regional and sub-regional level should be clarified and better integrated	<b>Agreed.</b> The programme <i>CPMR in ESA Region</i> aims at building capacity on CPMR, SALW and War Economies. IGAD has the overall lead in programme implementation with EAC and COMESA having a coordinating role on SALW issues (EAC) and war economies (COMESA).	
7.2 Integration of conflict sensitivity in strategy, and programme formulation and implementation	<b>Agreed.</b> All four RIOs have an agenda that play a role on the issue of peace and security and mainly focuses on conflict prevention and management. The EC supports this strategy through the Horn of Africa initiative as well as the EU/AU peace architecture.	
7.3 Combining EDF funding with other alternative funding channels for CPRM-related regional issues	<b>Agreed.</b> It would be an opportunity to plan and implement a CPRM project in collaboration with other donors.	
<b>OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
<b>2. Improve EC internal coordination mechanisms and increase capacity at EC level to improve subsidiarity and ensure the full realisation of the EC's potential value added.</b>		
2.1 Set-up of a structured arrangement (e.g. an ESA-IO coordination unit)	<b>Agreed.</b> The regional integration process has certainly gained in profile recently; the organization of a large ESA-IO seminar is being discussed, bringing together all concerned EU delegations, ESA member states (NAOs) and RECs (RAOs) with the express intention of improving coordination in the region, and raising the attention paid to regional policy and its interaction with national policy implementation. Internal meetings of the four "regionalised" EU delegations and headquarters are organised in the margins of the regular IRCC meetings, which serve as co-ordination meetings for a range of issues pertaining to the implementation and design of regional policy in the region. These have been given additional structure in recent meetings, with an agenda and minutes, and they have fed into a wider process of awareness-raising.	

2.2 Increase capacity of Delegations for full realisation of EC value added	The Commission <b>recognises the need</b> for further strengthening resources dedicated to the management of regional programmes in Delegations. The Delegation accredited to COMESA (Zambia) will include a dedicated Section dealing with regional issues. In the case of IGAD, the upgrading of the Djibouti Delegation will certainly make it possible for the Commission to step-up its engagement with this RIO.	
2.3 Improve coordination mechanisms between national and regional programmes	<b>Agreed</b> , it is a priority under the 10th EDF RIP. This process will be supported through the IRCC and ensure that the NAO and RAO meet at least once a year to monitor coherence. The RISP Continuation programme under EDF 10 also pays close attention monitoring the integration of regional policy commitments into the national policy agenda, and coherence between the two.	
<b>3. The EC should provide increased practical training in use of EDF/EC procedures</b>	<b>Agreed.</b> The EC has a dedicated programme to train officers involved in the implementation of EDF funding. Training is offered at Delegation level. Furthermore, to help develop skills within the RIOs, the IRCC support programme under the 10 <sup>th</sup> EDF will offer training in EDF procedures but also in PCM and ECOFIN analysis.	
<b>4. Contribution Agreements should be linked to results and improvements in the regional integration and harmonisation processes.</b>	The Commission <b>shares</b> this view. It is currently assessing the experience of the use of CA in the case of COMESA, the only RIO with which CAs have been signed to date. The Commission is also inviting the RIOs to improve their capacities for Results Oriented Monitoring as part of their overall M&E responsibilities. .	
<b>6. Positive policy and legal harmonisation results should be consolidated and success stories communicated.</b>	<b>Agreed.</b> The EC is well aware of the need to communicate and inform regarding successful results. This is an on-going process.	
<b>8. Statistics on intra-regional markets should be further improved by establishing ad hoc methodologies and networks.</b>	<b>Agreed.</b> The RISP programme, implemented by COMESA, specifically seeks to improve the availability of statistics in the region. Whilst recognising that this is a very complex exercise even in developed economies, progress is being made, with a focus upon statistics to support continued economic integration (such as trade liberalisation and FTA or CU). Currently a system of regional integration indicators is being elaborated.	