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To all EBCAM Members

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ONE)- TALKS WITH EU PARLIAMENT ON EAS'GOING WELL

Parliament's group leaders have been urged to "send a strong signal" of political acceptance of the EU's new diplomatic corps. The conference of presidents, comprising leaders of each of the main political groups, meets on Thursday to discuss the European external action service (EAS).

In particular, it will decide if member states have gone any way towards meeting parliamentary concerns over the staffing and financing of the proposed new service, which was created by the Lisbon treaty.

According to a senior EU source, a "positive" response could pave the way for preparatory work to begin on establishing the EAS, including advertising senior posts.

Even then, however, a final parliamentary plenary vote approving the structure of the EAS is not expected until after the summer.

This means, according to the source, that the service is still not expected to be operational until December, which would be the first anniversary of the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty.

Parliament enjoys codecision powers with the other main EU institutions over staffing and financing of the EAS, two of the three ingredients necessary for it to come into force.

Negotiations have been continuing between parliament's three rapporteurs on the issue and representatives from the commission, member states and EU foreign affairs supremo Catherine Ashton.

The source said, "We are pleased with the way these talks have been going but there are still some things that need resolving.

"You should not underestimate the amount of time it takes to create an EAS. It is quite complicated." He added, "This week's conference of presidents meeting, however, can send a strong signal that we are in the right ball park.

"Although we are still not at the stage where parliament can vote in plenary on the EAS, a signal of political acceptance for the different strands of the EAS would be very useful."

He said, "The best-case scenario is that we would make senior appointments in September and the service could become operational in time for the first anniversary of Lisbon."

Turning to the scale and structure of the EAS, the source said it was "premature" to speculate that it may lead to the creation of an envoy for the West Balkans or a single military headquarters.

He also dismissed fears that it will replace diplomatic services in member states, saying, "Please, let's not get carried away that this is some great Baroque creation. It is not."

He pointed out that the service will have approximately 1150 diplomats both in Brussels and overseas.

"If you compare this with, say the UK which has 3000 policy officers in the diplomatic service in London alone and the same number posted overseas, you can see that it is relatively small."

TWO)- CUT IN AID MAY BE GOOD FOR AFRICA'S HEALTH, SAY EXPERTS

The dire state of rich countries' public finances is likely to squeeze aid to Africa in the next few years, although it may be the bitter pill the fast-growing continent needs to wean itself off handouts. Britain's new Conservative administration has pledged to keep aid spending at 0.7 percent of GDP, but given the massive cuts needed to balance the country's books, it will be a tough promise to keep, analysts say. Other European countries are in a similar boat. "After the financial crisis, Western publics are understandably a bit sceptical about forking out for what they see as an open-ended commitment," said Tom Cargill, an Africa analyst at London's Chatham House. "My concern is that leads to a knee-jerk reaction of just shutting the taps off. That would be disastrous," he said. Even though sub-Saharan economies grew at a pace 5 percent before the 2009 global slump, aid to the poorest continent also rose after the Group of Seven (G7) richest states promised in 2005 to double development assistance. The ONE Campaign said last month the G7 would miss that target, but was on track to provide \$13.7 billion of the \$22.6 billion extra pledged at the landmark meeting in Scotland. Despite Africa's huge population -now more than a billion- such increases have undoubtedly had a positive impact, especially in areas such as public health. For instance, in April the World Health Organisation said Africa had made "dramatic" steps in tackling malaria in the last decade, mainly due to donor-funded treatment drives and provision of insecticide-treated bed-nets. However, the extra cash has caused aid to become more entrenched in African budgets, even in "success stories" such as Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia that relied on charity for around half their revenue in 2008, according to World Bank figures. **THINNER GOVERNMENTS** Critics also argue that aid undermines the social contract that should exist between an elected administration and its people, creating lazy, unaccountable and corrupt government. Now, with rapidly growing populations and the prospect of an aid slowdown -- if not outright reverse -- African governments are scoping out alternative, less

fickle, funding sources: more domestic debt, a broader tax base and foreign bonds. Worryingly, none of the options are easy or quick. "They're long-term things. You can't just do them for the next budget," said Citibank Africa analyst Coura Fall. "Eurobonds take time and they're costly, so the only alternative is domestic funding. And how do they do that? Many are talking about increasing their revenue base but how can they do that significantly for the next fiscal year?" Despite a decade of growth fuelled by high commodity prices, economic liberalisation, rising foreign investment, particularly from China, and official debt forgiveness, aid is still big bucks in Africa. According to the World Bank, in 2008 it exceeded tax and other revenue such as customs and mineral duties in 14 sub-Saharan states, amounting to \$38 billion across the region. Put differently, that is \$49 dollars for every African and the equivalent of 21 percent of overall government receipts. However that picture is changing as post-financial crisis realities, including a surprisingly buoyant Africa, sink in. At one end of the equation, donors appear to be applying the squeeze, albeit one dressed up as failure by recipients to meet funding conditions. For instance, backers of Tanzania's socialist administration slashed aid by \$220 million to \$534 million for the 2010/11 budget, citing concerns about the progress of economic reforms. In response, the government said it was dusting off plans to get a credit rating and launch a \$500 million eurobond. Similarly, Uganda reported a 20 percent rise in tax receipts for the first half of the 2009/10 financial year, evidence that a drive to reduce donor dependence is taking shape. Uganda too has floated the idea of a eurobond as it waits for oil -forecast at 100,000-150,000 barrels a day- to come on-stream in 2015 from new fields in its Lake Albert region. With economic growth forecasts well above 5 percent, relatively low levels of external debt and lots of mineral beneath their soil, such countries should be able to raise foreign cash on a scale way beyond domestic borrowing limits. According to analysts, Angola, which rivals Nigeria as Africa's biggest oil producer, is likely to be able to borrow at 8 percent if it proceeds with plans for up to \$4 billion in international bonds this year, roughly in line with a landmark \$750 million eurobond launched by Ghana in 2007. **AID DEBATE** That is not to say Africa's long-term financing needs are taken care of. The World Bank says it needs to invest more than \$90 billion a year, double what it is now spending, to drag its awful infrastructure into the 21st century -- sums that dwarf even the billions of dollars in cheap loans and minerals-for-roads deals that China is rolling out across the continent. There is also the risk of states coming off aid hitting a short-term budget crunch that damages their growth prospects or ability to squeeze the most out of a resource windfall, thereby driving up the costs of alternative long-term financing. "Any immediate decision that a politician might be looking for in Europe to cut aid because a country discovers oil would be dangerous," said ONE Campaign director Jamie Drummond. "Smartly targeted aid could make oil revenues go further." At the very least, the turmoil of the last 18 months has pushed policymakers on both sides of the aid divide to confront an issue normally swept under the diplomatic carpet. "African governments don't like talking about aid. It's like welfare," said Chatham House's Cargill. "But there should be the beginnings of a conversation about how we help African countries move to a situation where they do not need aid."

THREE)- EU, ALGERIA SIGN COOPERATION ACCORDS

L'Algérie et l'Union européenne (UE) ont signé dimanche à Alger un mémorandum de coopération pour 2011-2013 de 172 millions d'euros et une convention de financement du programme d'appui de l'enseignement supérieur algérien de 21,5 millions d'euros. La signature de ce mémorandum d'entente est un "événement solennel qui vient témoigner de la qualité des relations entre l'Algérie et l'UE", a déclaré le ministre algérien des Affaires étrangères Mourad Medelci, cité par l'agence APS. Ce programme est doté d'une enveloppe de 172 millions d'euros, a-t-il précisé. Les documents ont été signés par les ministres algériens des Affaires étrangères, Mourad Medelci, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche scientifique, Rachid Harraoubia, et le commissaire européen responsable de l'Elargissement et de la Politique européenne de voisinage, Stefan Füle. Ce dernier est arrivé dimanche à Alger pour une visite de deux jours. Le mémorandum d'entente couvre six programmes de coopération relatifs à la protection de l'environnement, la valorisation du patrimoine culturel, le développement socio-économique, le secteur des transports, la mise en oeuvre de l'accord d'association ainsi que la pêche et l'aquaculture. L'accord d'association Algérie-UE est entré en vigueur le 1er septembre 2005. L'Algérie ne "ménagera aucun effort pour garantir la célérité d'exécution de cette approche budgétaire", a ajouté M. Medelci, en souhaitant qu'une "collaboration étroite" soit établie entre les administrations des deux parties. M. Medelci a par ailleurs noté "les progrès enregistrés dans la négociation visant la conclusion d'un accord de coopération scientifique et technologique entre l'Algérie et l'UE". La tenue de la 5ème session du Conseil d'association Algérie-UE, prévu pour le 15 juin prochain, est une "perspective que les deux parties devraient saisir pour aller de l'avant dans leur coopération", a-t-il dit.

FOUR)- DARFUR PEACE TALKS TO RESUME WITHOUT JEM

Des représentants de Khartoum et d'une alliance rebelle minoritaire ont repris lundi à Doha des pourparlers de paix en l'absence du groupe rebelle le plus militarisé, le Mouvement pour la justice et l'égalité JEM. A l'ouverture de ce round, en présence de la presse, le représentant de Khartoum, Amine Omar, a dit espérer un accord rapide avec le Mouvement de la libération pour la justice (MLJ), né d'une alliance de factions rebelles minoritaires qui ont signé en mars avec Khartoum un accord-cadre de paix prévoyant un cessez-le-feu. Le médiateur du Qatar, le ministre d'Etat aux Affaires étrangères, Ahmad Abdallah Al-Mahmoud, a regretté l'absence du JEM et appelé tous les rebelles du Darfour à "se joindre au processus de paix". Khartoum et le JEM sont parvenus à un cessez-le-feu doublé d'un accord politique en février, mais les pourparlers de Doha n'ont pas débouché sur une paix durable à la date prévue du 15 mars. Récemment, le JEM a souligné qu'aucune reprise des négociations n'était en vue avec le gouvernement sur fond de reprise des combats au Darfour et d'une demande de Khartoum d'arrêter le chef du groupe, Khalil Ibrahim, qui se trouve en Libye, après avoir été expulsé du Tchad le 19 mai dernier.

FIVE)- EU GIVES UN FOOD AGENCY \$ 55 MILLION FOR SUDAN

The European Union has pledged to give the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) 46 million euros (55 million dollars) to provide food aid to conflict-stricken regions in Sudan, the European Commission said Monday. The agreement was signed in Rome, where the UN agency is based, between the WFP Executive Director, Josette Sheeran, and the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, Kristalina Georgieva. "I am deeply concerned about the situation of civilians affected by the recent fighting in some areas of South Darfur, particularly Jebel Marra, and parts of West Darfur," Georgieva said in a statement. The commissioner said that "several thousands of people have been displaced and urgently need our assistance and, worryingly, humanitarian agencies have no access to them." The EU's executive money is expected to allow the WFP to restock its supplies and deliver food to more than 4 million people in Darfur and 4.3 million people in South Sudan, the commission said. Funding is part of a total 114 million euro allocated for the EU's 2010 Global Plan for Sudan. The Commission's main objective is to save lives and support livelihoods in the conflict-affected areas of Sudan. ECHO funding is destined for programmes primarily targeting nutritionally vulnerable women and children, internally displaced people and drought-affected populations. The aid will primarily be used to support general food distributions and to provide supplementary feeding rations. This contribution will enable the WFP to restock its warehouses and to reach out to the more than 4 million people in Darfur and 4.3 million people in South Sudan who are in desperate need of food assistance.

ECHO's allocation of €46 million is part of its 2010 Global Plan for Sudan, worth €114 million.

The humanitarian crisis in Sudan remains complex as internal and cross-border conflicts persist, leaving the population increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity. In Darfur millions of people remain dependent on humanitarian food assistance as sporadic fighting continues to threaten the prospects of recovery and development in the region.

In Darfur, the ongoing effort by the humanitarian community to bring relief to millions of people (internally displaced, local villagers and nomads) faces enormous challenges. Access to people in need by aid workers has become ever more hazardous because of a general lack of security in the area.

In Southern Sudan, political and ethnic tensions have led to an upsurge of violent conflicts, threatening the relative peace experienced in the region since the end of an over two decades-long civil war in 2005.

SIX)- LESS FUNDS WILL CAUSE UNNECESSARY AIDS DEATHS

Backtracking by international donors in funding the fight against HIV/AIDS risks widening the treatment gap in Africa, undermining years of positive achievements in the field, warns a new Medecins Sans Frontières report. And many more unnecessary HIV-related deaths will be caused by these shifts in international

donor funding

Released at the end of May, the report is titled "No time to quit". And its author, Mit Philips, is extremely worried. Success in the fight against HIV/AIDS is very fragile, she believes.

"How can we give up the fight halfway and pretend that the crisis is over? Nine million people worldwide in need of urgent treatment still lack access to this life-saving care... There is a real risk that many of them will die within the next few years if necessary steps are not taken now," said Philips.

The flatlining of annual budget allocations for HIV/AIDS, alongside the reduction of the number of donor organisations funding HIV/AIDS treatment in the most affected countries places increasing pressure on already under-resourced health systems. HIV/AIDS is no longer treated as an emergency. Philips wonders whether speaking too much about success and not enough about the work still to be done has resulted in decreasing public pressure in Europe and the U.S. "In Europe, HIV has become a very treatable chronic disease. It's hard for people to imagine that it has such a different face in Africa. It's two different worlds," Philips said.

Two thirds of people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa that need treatment – some six million people – are not getting it. Stock outs in some countries of life-saving anti-retroviral treatment, as well as doubts about future funding have far-reaching consequences for health systems planning, and especially implications for ARV programmes.

The financial crisis and changing approaches to the fight against the disease have resulted in a re-categorisation of funding, away from providing treatment to once-off injections of equipment or infrastructure, thereby avoiding recurrent costs. But those who are already on treatment need the funding to continue for them to be able to receive their medication. And those not on treatment will not be able to access it, unless funding is not only maintained, but increased.

Mark Heywood, deputy chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council believes the issue for South Africa is not about sustaining existing levels of funding, but increasing donor support in order to allow treatment to be scaled up. Currently the country has some one million people on anti-retroviral treatment, but in the next five years, the number will need to rise to approximately five million. This expansion is not something South Africa can afford to fund on its own.

Although the South African government depends less on international donors than some of its neighbours, healthcare is still underfunded. "But this doesn't make South Africa a beggar for international charity," said Heywood. "What it does make clear is that managing the epidemic is an international responsibility. Health is a global duty." Ensuring the provision of HIV treatment is not simply a pragmatic question, but also an ethical one. In the context of the South African government's new mass HIV counselling and testing campaign – the largest of its kind in the world, aiming to test 15 million individuals in a year - can you scale up voluntary counselling and testing without increasing the accessibility and availability of life saving treatment for those who require it?

Donor retreat in South Africa would not be felt only within the country's borders, but throughout the Southern African region, Heywood believes. Through intricate and complex links with neighbouring countries, including large migrant worker populations, consequences would have a regional impact – not only on HIV treatment, but it also would translate into an increase of tuberculosis and its multi-drug resistant variety.

"There is evidence on a global scale of a retreat – evident that donors are reconfiguring programmes that will take money away. This will result in numerous preventable deaths, and preventable diseases," Heywood said.

Greater accountability of all actors – donors, governments and recipients alike – is imperative for dealing with the crisis. "I don't dispute the gross wastage of donor funding in certain places, but ultimately, how do you get out of this cycle of ad hocism and short-sightedness of funding on these issues?" asked Heywood. Going into a replenishment period this year, the Global Fund is concerned that donor countries may not make the necessary commitments to maintain and scale-up HIV-related programmes. Professor Michel Kazatchkine, executive director of the Global Fund believes the results could be disastrous.

"I am extremely worried about the reports that people are being turned away from treatment centres or put on waiting lists. Donors must allow us to continue scaling up access to treatment and prevention, so that we can ultimately win the fight. Otherwise, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria will gain force again in South Africa and other countries, which would be a public health and human rights disaster," Kazatchkine said.

In this funding round, certain donors, including the United Kingdom, Germany and France, want financing capped. UNAIDS estimates that for 2010, effectively combating the pandemic worldwide requires 25 billion dollars, including seven billion dollars for treatment. But only 14 billion dollars has been made available.

"This is no time for us to slow down our efforts. Rather, we should redouble them," Kazatchkine said.

SEVEN)- SUDANESE PAPER HALTS PRINTING IN CENSORSHIP PROTEST

A Sudanese newspaper said on Sunday it would suspend publication for one week in protest at stringent censorship by authorities, as five other papers were censored in Africa's largest country, journalists said. Direct pre-publication censorship was reintroduced for two daily papers last month and on Saturday night four others also complained they were visited by Sudanese security forces who removed many pages of content. "We will suspend our newspaper for a week in protest at the pre-(publication) censorship," said Faiz al-Silaik, acting editor in chief of the Ajras al-Huriya paper, aligned to the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement. Ajras al-Huriya was unable to go to press on Sunday for the third day in a row and the opposition al-Meydan, aligned to the Communist Party, was not allowed to print. "They went to the printing press...and they told the press not to print the paper," said managing editor Mohamed el-Fatih from al-Meydan. "The main news they were unhappy about seemed to be the doctors' strike." Journalists from six independent or opposition papers told Reuters they were visited and directly censored by the security forces late on Saturday night. Other papers said they were called and told not to write about specific news including the strike by doctors over pay and working conditions and the International Criminal Court, unless it was from a government source. Sudan's press opened up after the 2005 north-south peace deal. But media freedom suffered as a result of rising tensions with the ICC and Darfur's separate crisis. South Sudan will vote on a key referendum on secession in January. Journalists in the semi-autonomous south have also been harassed, with many arrested or detained by the authorities.

EIGHT)- SUDAN'S BASHIR NOT INVITED TO AU SUMMIT, SAYS UGANDA

Uganda said Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir had not been invited to next month's African Union summit in Kampala. Sudan angrily demanded an apology from Uganda on Sunday and called on the African Union to move the summit to another venue. Bashir has had to restrict his international travel. The ruling created a diplomatic dilemma for Uganda and other African members of the International Criminal Court who theoretically would have to arrest the president if he entered their territory. The office of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni released a statement late on Saturday saying Bashir had not been invited to the 15th AU summit, due to take place in Kampala in July. Sudan would be represented at the conference by "other government officials" said the statement. Sudan's foreign ministry said the statement showed Kampala had "ill intentions" against Khartoum. "We are calling on (Uganda) to withdraw this improper statement and to make an open apology to the Sudanese people," said Sudan foreign ministry spokesman Moawia Osman Khalid. "We are going to call for the African Union to withdraw this summit from Kampala to any other African capital that would be able to host all the African leaders without discrimination." Sudan, which is not a member of the Hague-based court, has dismissed the case as a Western plot. Khartoum has said its president is free to travel across the continent after AU heads of state voted not to cooperate with the indictment last year. But Bashir has so far limited his travel to non-member countries including Egypt, Ethiopia and Libya. Sudanese state media and Ugandan newspapers reported in July last year Museveni had called Bashir to apologise for comments from a junior minister that Kampala was mulling whether or not to arrest him at an economic summit. Bashir did not attend that meeting and in November pulled out of an Islamic summit in Istanbul, after reports Istanbul had come under pressure from the European Union to drop him from the guest list.

SUDAN'S BASHIR GETS INVITATION TO SUMMIT... AND TO CONTROVERSIAL COURT CONFERENCE

Uganda has backtracked on its decision not to invite Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir to an African Union summit in Kampala next month. The United Nations said on Tuesday that Bashir, who faces an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC), had also been invited to an ICC review conference taking place this week in the Ugandan capital. Bashir is wanted by the ICC. He denies the charges but has seen his travel restricted since the war crimes court issued the arrest warrant last year. "All leaders were invited to participate. It's not Uganda that invited people, rather it was the UN," United Nations spokesman Farhan Haq said, referring to the ICC conference in Kampala. On Monday, Uganda's Foreign Ministry backtracked from comments by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and said Bashir had been invited to the AU Summit next month. Sudan had reacted angrily to an announcement by Museveni's office over the weekend that Bashir was not invited and that Khartoum would send other officials in his place. It demanded an apology from Uganda and called on the AU to switch the summit to another venue. A spokesperson for the office of the ICC prosecutor said Bashir was becoming increasingly isolated and could

not travel to the AU summit despite the invitation because Museveni had confirmed he would be arrested. "The consistent position of all States Parties to the ICC has been to hand invitations to president Bashir and warn him at the same time that should he travel to their territory, they would abide by their ICC obligations," the spokesperson said. Christian Wenaweser, president of the Assembly of States Parties that oversees the work of the ICC, also described the UN invitation to Bashir as a protocol issue. African leaders have asked the Hague-based court to postpone any action against Bashir but the warrant has not been lifted. Bashir, the only sitting head of state wanted by the ICC, has had to choose his trips carefully but he has made a point of travelling to friendly nations in the Middle East and Africa, including Saudi Arabia, Libya and Eritrea

NINE)- EMERGING RWANDAN MINI-STATE IN CONGO RAISES FEARS OF CONFLICT

The scarlet-lettered flag flaps atop a lush green hill in an apparent declaration of ownership. Here, a rebel movement turned political party collects taxes, appoints local officials and even polices a border post. These former rebels are accused of populating the land they have grabbed with thousands of people from neighboring Rwanda to form a mini-Tutsi state. The state-within-a-state is emerging in the shadow of Rwanda's genocide two decades ago, and is raising the specter of new violence in war-ravaged east Congo. U.N. officials, legislators and traditional chiefs are already forming «pacification committees» to try and resolve the land conflicts. «The situation is explosive,» Jean Baumbiliya Kisoloni, vice president of the provincial assembly based in Goma, said of Masisi, one of the districts under the new flag. «I am not really optimistic that this can be resolved without conflict.» After more than half a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered in Rwanda, the Hutu perpetrators of the genocide fled to east Congo in 1994. They took control of much of the land now in dispute and wanted to declare it a «Hutuland» for their tribe. At least 54,000 Congolese Tutsis in the region fled to Rwanda. Despite pressure from Tutsis, the Congolese government has not facilitated the return of the refugees from Rwanda. That reluctance led a renegade Congolese Tutsi general named Laurent Nkunda to desert the army, along with thousands of fighters who say their parents in exile in Rwanda must come home. In a 2008 rebellion, Nkunda's Tutsi fighters overran the territory in east Congo, forcing army troops and U.N. peacekeepers to retreat right to the gates of the provincial capital, Goma. Nkunda was arrested in 2009 under a hastily-cobbled peace accord between longtime enemies Rwanda and Congo, but his fighters were integrated into Congo's military. These fighters _known as the CNDP_ have tripled the area under their control to include lucrative mines and tens of thousands of acres (hectares). «What's going on here now is boiling under the surface, a calm before the storm, and when it explodes ...,» Camilla Olson of Refugees International said, her voice trailing off. In the mountaintop town of Kitchanga, a woman selling cheese looks around nervously when asked if there are any foreigners around. She looks at CNDP soldiers up the dirt road, then whispers fiercely: «They're all around us. Sometimes a dozen come, some days it's just three or four.» Asked how she knew they were foreigners, she said the new arrivals claimed to be coming home, but did not know the name of Mweso town 20 kilometers down the road and did not know what day to go to the big market held weekly at nearby Kachuga. She said they had to be Rwandans, coming to grab land in Congo. **THE TERMS OF THE ACCORD** In the peace agreement signed last year, Rwanda, Congo and the U.N.'s refugee agency vowed to repatriate the 54,000 Congolese Tutsi refugees registered with the U.N. in Rwanda. The CNDP says many more, as many as 100,000, are living in Rwanda outside refugee camps. But Rwanda has stalled, and most recently put off a meeting to discuss the issue for three months. And the CNDP says it will not dismantle its «parallel administration» until the Congolese government fulfills its part of the peace accord by organizing the return of the refugees and giving Tutsis positions in the government. Meanwhile, some 12,000 families _at least 60,000 people_ are reported to have crossed the border from Rwanda in recent months, according to the provincial coordinator of the National Commission for Refugees, Laingulia Njewa. Along with the new arrivals have come thousands of cattle, colorfully dubbed «Cows Without Borders,» leading extremists to warn of an invasion from old enemy Rwanda. The exodus is so large that many of the newcomers might be not refugees but rather economic migrants, abandoning their tiny, overpopulated state in search of, literally, greener pastures. Rwanda's 10 million people are densely congregated at 980 per square mile compared to Congo's 60 million, who average 66 per square mile. **RWANDAN INVASION** A report by Refugees International found that people from Rwanda are «attempting to pass themselves off as Congolese refugee returnees and arriving to areas under the protection of the CNDP, adding to the frictions that are rising.» The report found that large farms are being established in the area through heavy taxation and threats of violence to drive out land owners. It also said there were reports of armed herders in Masisi serving as a militia. But those findings are disputed by Aloys

Tegera, a Congolese Tutsi who is the director of the Pole Institute think tank based in Goma. «These fears of an invasion from Rwanda are the fantasy of politicians,» he said. «We walked for hours in the forest looking for this new wave of refugees and found not one.» Still, Karl Steinacker of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has been unable to explain the origins of some «undocumented» people crossing from Rwanda. In addition, some 12,000 people who had been in a CNDP-controlled refugee camp in Masisi district also have gone missing, he said. «They haven't crossed into Rwanda but they are not there any more,» he said, implying the CNDP had settled them on grabbed land inside Congo. The U.N. refugee agency has taken names of thousands of new arrivals from Rwanda but is unable to match them to names of refugees registered in Rwandan camps, he said. Asked about the influx months ago, Information Minister Lambert Mende said officials would check the documents of new arrivals and repatriate any who proved not to be Congolese. But the government has not responded to several offers by the UN refugee agency to do a census of undocumented people. Rwandans and Congolese have long crossed their shared border for political and economic reasons. In a manifesto published after his 2009 capture, former CNDP leader Nkunda said that without colonization, today's Congo would not exist and his Congolese home district would be part of Rwanda. Belgian colonizers used Rwanda, a fraction the size of sprawling Congo, as a forced labor camp for Congo's mines and massive tea, coffee and timber plantations. Thousands of Rwandan Tutsis also came to settle in Congo after pogroms in 1958. Yet this latest wave has prompted anxieties about a Rwandan invasion. A report from Tegera's institute says politicians are using the return of legitimate refugees to «unleash irrational fears and panic.» The report said articles are being circulated with the intention of creating ethnic hatred against «the invaders.» Steinacker of the U.N. refugee agency said local mediation committees have had some small successes. «But they are no match for the magnitude of the problem,» he said.

TEN)- MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES: SUSTAINABLE FISHING PRACTICES CANNOT BE POSTPONED

Over 54% of the Mediterranean fish stocks which have been analysed by scientists are found to be overfished. To remedy this situation, the EU adopted, back in 2006, the 'Mediterranean Regulation' which aims to improve fisheries management in order to achieve sustainable fisheries, protect the fragile marine environment and restore fish stocks to healthy levels. It applies to EU member states around the Mediterranean. To allow Member States time to get prepared for the implementation of this Regulation, a long transition period of 3 years was agreed for a number of its provisions. As of 1 June, the Regulation is fully in force and must be implemented by the Member States concerned. However, Member States so far have largely failed to take all necessary measures to ensure full implementation and the Commission deeply regrets this. The Commission calls on Member States, to urgently take action, through the application of measures based on science and aiming a high degree of sustainability.

Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Maria Damanaki insists that the measures adopted through the Mediterranean Regulation in December 2006 should be fully implemented at this stage: ' I will see to it that the Mediterranean Regulation is strictly implemented. The transition period is over. I call on member states to take action now...' she said.

"Member States have had over three years to get ready and comply with the rules. These are the rules that Member States unanimously agreed to through a compromise in 2006, which had amended the more ambitious Commission proposal. It is difficult to accept that Member States are not willing or able today to implement even the 2006 compromise. I am truly disappointed. ", she added.

The Mediterranean Regulation¹ takes steps towards mainstreaming environmental concerns into fisheries policy and establishing a network of protected areas where fishing activities are restricted to protect nursery areas, spawning grounds and the marine ecosystem. It also sets out technical rules on allowed fishing methods and distance from the coast and provides for protected species and habitats.

The Regulation gives greater possibility for Member States to adapt measures to the precise local situations, but this approach does not work and will fail if member states do not do their homework.

When the Regulation entered into force at the beginning of 2007, it envisaged a long phasing-in period (until 31 May 2010) for some provisions. It would therefore be reasonable to expect national administrations to have had ample time to arrange for the transition and ensure compliance. Yet even now they seem unprepared and the level of compliance with the Regulation appears to be problematic.

Recent inspections by the Commission detected serious violations regarding the minimum mesh size of fishing nets, the minimum size of fish and other marine organisms and other selectivity issues. And this despite the fact that all relevant provisions have been binding since the Regulation came into force 3 years ago. Moreover, Member States have not fulfilled their obligations to submit management plans within the deadlines or designate additional fishing protected areas as required by the Regulation.

It is worth stressing that the Regulation allows a certain number of fishing practices to continue as long as scientific assessments show that the impact on species and habitats is acceptable and they are managed under a national plan.

The European Commission deeply regrets this state of affairs, which is bound to have a direct effect on the state of the stocks and the sustainability of the fisheries. It has strongly urged Member States to act swiftly to rectify the situation and is working closely with them to solve the outstanding problems. In case of serious infringement, however, the Commission will have no choice but to take firm steps to ensure compliance.

Mediterranean fisheries cannot reasonably be managed by the Mediterranean Regulation or by the European Union alone. The involvement of all sea-facing countries is crucial and the EU is very active within multilateral organisations such as the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), so as to improve scientific knowledge and create above all a level -playing field with the over-arching aim of promoting sustainability.

ELEVEN)- PIEBALGS REMAINS CONCERNED BY THE POLITICAL DEADLOCK IN MADAGASCAR AND CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES INEVITABLE

On 7 June, the European Union decided to close the consultations with the Republic of Madagascar which began on 6 July 2009 and adopted appropriate measures under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement.

Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for development said: “We are faced with real political deadlock, which leads us today to close the consultations that begun almost a year ago with Madagascar and to adopt appropriate measures – in this case suspension of aid – as foreseen in the Cotonou Agreement.

The European Commission has supported African and international mediation efforts over the last year to bring the various Malagasy political factions to agree to a consensual and inclusive transition process and restore constitutional order. The appropriate measures taken by the EU follow those adopted by the African Union and the Southern African Development Community.

In the absence of progress and following the implementation by the de facto authorities of a unilateral transition process, there is no alternative but to adopt these appropriate measures which will mean the suspension of all budget support as well as implementation of the National Indicative Programme in the framework of the 10th European Development Fund for the next 12 months. These measures will not affect humanitarian aid or certain projects which directly benefit the population.

The European Commission will continue to support mediation efforts and stands ready to review its position at any time. In the case of an evolution of the situation in a positive direction, the Commission reserves the right to propose to the Council of the European Union the adoption of accompanying measures for this process.

TWELVE)- COUNCIL TAKES APPROPRIATE MEASURES AGAINST MADAGASCAR

The Council today has taken appropriate measures towards Madagascar in accordance with article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement

The EU considers the forcible transfer of power in Madagascar on 17 March 2009 a serious violation of democracy and the rule of law, essential elements of the Cotonou Agreement between the EU and ACP states. In accordance with article 96 of the agreement, the European Union engaged in a political dialogue with Madagascar. However, the Malagasy side failed to make satisfactory proposals during the consultations on 6 July 2009.

Since then, no consensus has been reached on the implementation of the political agreements signed by the country's political factions last year. Instead, the de facto authorities have unilaterally announced a roadmap for transition. The EU considers this unilateral roadmap unacceptable and the Council thus decided to introduce appropriate measures and close the consultations.

The measures do not affect humanitarian and emergency aid and certain projects that directly benefit the population. Instead, today's decision suspends all budgetary aid to Madagascar as well as the allocation of new funds from the 10th European development fund. Operations already under way will continue except for activities and payments directly involving the government and its agencies.

Today's measures will remain in force for 12 months. During this period, the political dialogue with Madagascar foreseen in the Cotonou Agreement will continue, in close coordination with the international community, and will be stepped up if a consensus-based solution for a return to constitutional order is reached. In this case, the EU reserves the right to modify the measures and give its support to such developments.

THIRTEEN)- EU ANTI-PIRACY MISSION OFF SOMALIA TO BE EXTENDED UNTIL END OF 2011

European Union foreign ministers meeting next week are set to extend the bloc's mission protecting ships from Somali pirates' attacks until the end of 2011, an EU naval commander said Wednesday. The Atalanta mission, counting on up to 12 ships and patrol aircraft supplied by Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Spain, Belgium, Luxembourg and Greece, as well as non-EU member Norway, is tasked with securing humanitarian supplies to Somalia and protecting vulnerable ships. "I am very confident that at next week's foreign affairs council our mandate will be extended, which will allow us to operate throughout 2011," said the outgoing commander of Atalanta, British Rear Admiral Peter Hudson, at a news conference in Brussels. Atalanta patrols the Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin waters in conjunction with other anti-piracy missions operated by NATO, India, Russia and China. **HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL** Hudson said the EU mission, launched in December 2008, has been increasingly successful, leading to 77 pirate groups being dismantled in recent months. Since civil-war stricken Somalia has no functioning justice system, the EU's aim is to have suspects tried and convicted in neighbouring countries such as Kenya and the Seychelles, but efforts so far have had limited success. Atalanta's commander recognised there was "still plenty to do and no room for complacency" as 17 ships with 400 mariners on board were currently being held hostage by pirates. He also acknowledged that pirates were getting bolder, straying further into the high seas and going so far as to launch an attack 250 miles off the coast of India. As a result, Atalanta's mandate may have to be extended eastwards to patrol more of the Indian Ocean, Hudson said. However, he denied more ships would be needed for the task. "Our assessment is that the number of ships we have at our disposal is just about right," he said. Hudson was speaking as he prepared to handover Atalanta's command to another Briton, Major General Buster Jones, who is expected to take up the post on June 14. The term "general" normally indicates an officer in Britain's land forces. Jones, however, is a member of Britain's Royal Marines, who are part of the country's navy.

FOURTEEN)- EAST AFRICA, EU SET NOVEMBER DEADLINE FOR TRADE DEAL

The East African Community (EAC) trade bloc and the European Union have set November as the new deadline for signing a trade deal, a top Kenyan official said on Wednesday. The EAC and the European Union have been at loggerheads for months over the signing of new a Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which was meant to replace preferential trade deals the World Trade Organisation has rejected. The five EAC members, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, initialled the EPA deal in 2007 and secured continued EU market access for their products. The countries have however failed to sign the agreement, meaning there are no legally binding pacts. The deal was meant to be signed last July, but the deadline passed due to disputes over trade and development issues. "It was agreed that the deadline to conclude full EPA is November 2010," David Nalo, the permanent secretary at Kenya's East African Community Affairs ministry, told Reuters after a three-day meeting between negotiators from the European Union and the EAC in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. "The EAC and the European Union agreed to maintain status quo. Preferential access continues until full EPA is signed." The European Union said in February it wanted a clear timetable for signing the deal, but Tanzania's trade minister said then that the EAC would not budge unless Brussels gave firm commitments on development assistance, especially for infrastructure. **KENYA TO BE GREATEST LOSER** East Africa's largest economy, Kenya, stands to lose most if the EU deal is not signed as it is excluded from the classification of a Least Developed Country. It would miss out on exporting goods to Europe tariff-free under the Everything But Arms initiative, which other EAC members qualify for. Kenya would have to start paying duty of between 8.5 per cent and 15.7 per cent. Estimates by Kenya's Trade ministry show that loss of tariff preferences would cost Kenya investments worth \$700 million and thousands of jobs in its horticulture sector that currently stands as one of the leading foreign exchange earners. Nevertheless, Kenya has stood by its EAC partners in pushing for all issues to be resolved despite the danger it faces should it fail to sign the deal. The EAC has a gross domestic product of \$73.3 billion and a population of close to 127 million. It has a customs union, and a common market is due to take effect in July.

FIFTEEN)- REPORT DENOUNCES € 19 BILLION SHORTFALL IN EU DEVELOPMENT AID PLANS

The European Union is set to fall 19 billion euros (23 billion dollars) short of its aid promises to developing countries this year unless it boosts funding rapidly, a coalition of leading aid groups warned on Thursday. The EU is committed to boosting its development aid to 0.7 per cent of gross national income by 2015, and to hit a level of 0.56 per cent this year. But key states such as Italy, Germany and France are well short of that figure. "EU aid is 19 billion euros short of what was promised to developing countries by 2010," Justin Kilcullen, head of European umbrella non-governmental organisation (NGO) Concord, said. Concord's 1,600 members include leading development NGOs such as Oxfam, Action Aid, Caritas and Save the Children. The EU's commissioner for development, Andris Piebalgs, whose organisation is pushing member states to live up to their pledges, welcomed the report. "Europe's credibility rests in sticking to our commitments ... We need to scale up aid, make it more effective and make other EU policies work for development," he wrote on his blog. In 2000, EU leaders signed up to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, an ambitious pledge to end severe poverty - as well as the diseases, hunger and death associated with it - by 2015. But few EU states have put those pledges into practice. Italy, for example, is estimated to be some 4.5 billion euros behind in its funding, Germany 2.6 billion and France 800 million. Funding has fallen even further behind over the last year as the financial crisis has swamped national budgets. "EU aid efforts are being crippled by a crisis of commitment ... They are well off track on aid and abandoning their international commitments on aid effectiveness," said Hussaini Abdu, country director of Action Aid Nigeria. **EU COMMISSION PUSHING FOR COMPLIANCE** EU leaders are set to debate the goals at a summit in Brussels on June 17. According to internal papers, the summit is set to reaffirm the EU's "commitment to achieve the ... development aid targets." Piebalgs said that he was "determined to achieve that member states agree to prepare concrete and credible yearly action plans to meet our 2015 target ... This will be key if we are to call upon our international partners to match EU's level of ambition." In April, the European Commission set out a 12-point action plan designed to get EU aid efforts back on track by, among other initiatives, making them set out annual plans to boost aid and its effectiveness, and then apply them. "At the end of the day, our common objective is to eradicate poverty by making sure every euro spent has a high impact on the ground," Piebalgs said. The EU summit must now "come up with an ambitious MDG action plan," Elise Ford, head of Oxfam's EU office, said. World leaders are

expected to debate progress on the Millennium goals at a summit in New York in September. June's EU summit is meant to set out the bloc's position for that meeting.

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