

Press review: 27th of August, 2010

Europeans are losing faith in the EU. Meanwhile, Serbia is being forced to admit Kosovo's independence. Elsewhere, Ethiopian rebels reject peace talks with government. In addition, EU ties Pakistan aid to democratic reforms, while international organization urges Uganda to protect women's rights.

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EU Affairs

EU popularity plunges right across the bloc

People's confidence in the European Union has dropped tremendously in most countries as a response to the rising unemployment and the troubles of the eurozone, the latest Eurobarometer survey shows. Fewer than half of Europe's citizens (49 percent) think that their country has benefited from EU membership, while trust in the bloc's institutions has dropped to 42 percent, six points down compared to last year.

The survey was carried out in May, at the peak of the sovereign debt crisis affecting Greece and the whole eurozone and amid hikes in unemployment all across the continent. The EU's image worsened dramatically in Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, Spain, Romania, Italy and Luxembourg – where confidence in EU institutions fell by 10 to 18 percent compared to the previous year. Only Hungarians and Danes had a slightly better impression of the Brussels apparatus, while Belgians remained unchanged in the level of their opinion. Only 19 percent of respondents felt that the EU stands for democracy, a drop of seven points compared to 2009. EU commission spokespeople presented the results in a favourable light, stressing that the confidence levels in EU institutions are still higher than that of national governments and parliaments.

<http://euobserver.com/9/30682>

Enlargement, European Neighbourhood

German minister: Serbia must see 'reality' of independent Kosovo

On a visit to Serbia, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle has issued a call for the country to reconcile itself with an independent Kosovo. Westerwelle said Serbia, which does not recognize Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence, must "face reality the independence of Kosovo is a reality."

The International Court of Justice in The Hague last month ruled that Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence did not violate international law. And in an apparent reference to Kosovo, Westerwelle also said that those countries that want to join Europe have to maintain balanced policies, because the EU requires "dialogue about practical issues." Serbia applied for EU membership last year and has recently pushed for a United Nations resolution that would require more talks on Kosovo's status. The United Nations' General Assembly is to vote on the resolution next month.

http://www.rferl.org/content/German_Foreign_Minister_Serbia_Must_See_Reality_Of_Independent_Kosovo/2138559.html

Development

EU ties Pakistan aid to democratic reform

EU aid commissioner Kristalina Georgieva has said that long-term relief measures for Pakistan will be dependent on its improvement of democratic and human rights standards. She noted that EU foreign ministers will in September discuss the possibility of including Pakistan in the EU's Generalised System of Preferences on trade, potentially lowering import tariffs to help its economy recover. She said the EU will not relax the good governance criteria applied for GSP, despite the scale of disaster.

"We want to be sure this is a fair exchange among equals, of give and take - we open up more access and we see that means in Pakistan not only an increase in productivity but improvement in conditions for workers, in the overall democratic environment here, so it's not only more productive, it is also a more open and inclusive society," she explained. Georgieva admitted that support from NATO, which is currently waging war against militant groups in neighbouring Afghanistan and in Pakistani border regions, is politically "sensitive," however, and promised that any NATO involvement will not be exploited to make military gains. About €230 million of the money has been contracted so far, including a €30 million tranche to boost Pakistan's civilian law-enforcement capacity.

<http://euobserver.com/9/30679>

Ethiopian rebels shun peace deal

A rebel group in the region of South-eastern Ethiopia, the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), has turned down a government's peace deal, which was announced by Addis Ababa recently. Ethiopia's senior security and intelligence officials said negotiations were underway to reach an agreement with the separatist group that has been fighting successive governments in Addis Ababa for independence. The National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister said that several members of the ONLF had expressed readiness to operate peacefully in accordance with the country's constitution.

The official claims an agreement was likely to be signed in October and peace was to be recovered. However, the rebels' spokesperson in Doha, said that the announcement was just propaganda. According to him, there had not been any talks with Addis Ababa and no senior members of the ONLF had contacted the Ethiopian government. He vowed that his group would continue the struggle for independence of the region, stressing that there won't be a peace agreement with the government. Ethiopia, however claims that ONLF is backed by the Eritrean government, an allegation Asmara denies.

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/ethiopia:-ethiopian-rebels-shun-peace-deal-2010082555001.html>

Disadvantaged Groups

Uganda: Government needs to protect women's rights, ensure access to services

Women with disabilities in northern Uganda experience ongoing discrimination and gender-based violence, Human Rights Watch reports. Many are unable to gain access to basic services, including health care and justice, and they have been largely ignored in post-conflict reconstruction efforts. According to a Human Rights Watch's research women with disabilities in the country are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence.

Among the recommendations in the new report of the body is that the Ugandan government should adequately address the needs of women with disabilities in post-conflict development plans and programs. The report also calls on the government to ensure access for women with disabilities to mainstream government programs, particularly with regard to gender-based violence. The government of Uganda has an obligation to respect the rights of persons with disabilities under international and regional laws, the national constitution, and other domestic legislation. As a state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Uganda should ensure that women with disabilities enjoy all human rights on an equal basis with others.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201008260954.html>

Current Calls for proposals:

Dear Member, please find the Current Calls for Proposals below. As no new CfPs have been published today, I am sending you a compiled list of the ones with the closest deadlines.

1. **Egypt 2010**, EIDHR, Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Promoting Human Rights and Democratic Reform. Country-Based Support Scheme (CBSS) – deadline for submission of proposals: **1 September 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282039965711&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130174>

2. **Kenya**, Non State Actors in Development Action in partner countries – deadline for submission of **concept notes**: **13 September 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282039800422&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130345>

3. **Croatia**, IPA Info 2009 Civil Society EU Info – deadline for submission of proposals: **15 September 2010**.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282038450582&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130345>

4. **Croatia**, Building Capacities of CSOs for implementing Innovative Social Service Delivery Programmes in the Areas of Special State Concern – deadline for submission of proposals: **21 September 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282214268224&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=2&aoref=130189>

5. **Indonesia**, Aid to Uprooted People – deadline for submission of proposals: **29 September 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282039675373&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130206>

6. Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development Actions in partner countries, Egypt – deadline for submission of **concept notes**: **30 September 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282041406724&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130352>