



***Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network***  
***Réseau Afrique Europe Foi et Justice***

## **THE ECHOES FROM AEFJN**

**No. 3 – May & June 2013**

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### **JUST THINKING**

#### **Building Bridges between Africa and the EU**

This year, AEFJN celebrates its 25 years of commitment to greater economic justice for Africa. AEFJN is a bridge linking the two continents and aiming at Economic Justice for all Africans. Its members live their Faith commitment as followers of Jesus of Nazareth who wants “life in abundance for all.” The Network brings to the European political sphere the concerns of its members in Africa. [Read more](#)

### **FROM THE AEFJN DESK**

#### **Investment Agreements a Hidden Danger for Access to Medicines**

Pharmaceuticals companies owning patents have taken countries to international arbitration when they have been refused a patent or when a country has declared a compulsory license on a medicine whose patent the company owns. This has revealed that Investment Agreements represent a big danger to access to medicines and health care since “intellectual property” is considered as “investment” giving the companies the right to bring countries to international arbitration. [Read more](#)

#### **The New Initiative on Extractive Sector and Challenges to the African countries**

One of the main concerns about extractive sector governance is the role that transnational enterprises play in sourcing minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. Are they acting responsibly? Armed conflicts are often related to extractions of rare minerals, gas and oil. Furthermore, the benefits linked to the extractive industry along with the revenues that it provides to governments of countries exporting natural resources require better control and transparency. [Read more](#)

#### **Africa under threat from corporate-driven G8 policies**

The G8 is preparing the launch of the Global Land Transparency Initiative in readiness for the summit in the United Kingdom, June 2013. Both this Initiative and the G8's New Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition in Africa are corporate-driven initiatives, based on public-private partnerships, which risk surrendering African agriculture to large corporations and increasing land grabs in Africa. [Read more](#)

### **ALSO IN THE NEWS**

#### **67 Countries sign the Arms Trade Treaty**

When the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) adopted on 2 April 2013 by the UN opened for signature on 3 June 2013, 60 countries, of which 23 from the EU and 9 from Africa, signed it. Among them there were a few countries greatly affected by unregulated arms transfers and 3 of the biggest exporters: Germany, France and Britain. 50 ratifications are necessary for the ATT to come into effect. [Read more](#)

## **SADC scrambles to meet EU trade deadline**

Trade ministers from South African Development Community (SADEC) have met Botswana to establish a common position on the new Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU) ahead of next year's deadline. The economies of Botswana and Namibia will be the region's biggest losers when the EU revises the preferential trade scheme as they will lose the duty and quota free access to the EU market. [Read more](#)

## **West African Agriculture and Climate Change**

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has released a book on food security and climate change in West Africa. The book analyses the current food security risks in the selected 11 West African countries and also explores what increased efforts are necessary for sustainable food security in the face of climate change. [Read more](#)

## **VOICES FROM THE NETWORK**

### **25th Anniversary of AEFJN – May 28, 2013**

The celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AEFJN in Rome started with a festive Eucharist presided by Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and animated by an African choir. Ties among those present, mainly general councils, were strengthened over cocktails in the garden of the Divine Word Missionaries. [Read more](#)

### **The Celebration of the 25th anniversary of AEFJN in Brussels**

The Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Eucharist and a Round Table on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April in Brussels. Two panels addressed the general theme of **"Africa and Europe: Challenges for the Future"** The meeting was attended by guests from both Africa and Europe and the debate provided a fruitful exchange of ideas between the panellists and the public. [Read more](#)

### **The History of AEFJN**

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary AEFJN published the booklet "The History of AEFJN". The booklet provides the reader with an overview of the work of AEFJN during the last 25 years. You can download the booklet and there is a printable version on our website. [Read more](#)

## **ADVOCACY**

### **Meeting between AEFJN and the European Commission**

On 26<sup>th</sup> April AEFJN met Mr Yves Lecomte, the EU coordinator of negotiations for the Economic Partnership Agreements with Central Africa. AEFJN was represented by Sr Annie Girard, executive secretary of the Cameroon Antenna and Jose Luis Gutierrez Aranda, a member of the AEFJN secretariat in Brussels. [Read more](#)

## **VIDEOS**

[Video - How can everyone help preserve antibiotics?](#) Informative video on superbugs and antibiotic resistance. (3min)

[Video - Accaparement des terres au Sénégal](#) (French only; about the effects of GMOs and landgrabbing on food security). Video made by CCPA Kaolack (15min).

[Video on the commons - Common goods](#) by defending resources fundamental to human life could be an alternative to the current neoliberal system. (Cartoon 3min.)

## REQUESTING FEEDBACK

This issue is the third since the change from “*News of AEFJN*” to “*Echoes from AEFJN*”. We would like that our work reaches you in the form that suits you the best. In our new format we have diminished the number of articles and shortened the summaries. From some comments received we are concerned about those who have difficulties with internet and find difficult to access the articles. We are sending you two questions so as to receive your feedback and suggestions about the extension of articles and summaries, the layout and the content of *Echoes from AEFJN*.

1. What do you appreciate in the new “*Echoes from AEFJN*”?
2. What are your difficulties with the new “*Echoes from AEFJN*”?

Please send your feedback indicating the country where you are currently and send your answers to [aefjn@aefjn.org](mailto:aefjn@aefjn.org)