



Brussels Rural Development Briefings

A series of meetings on ACP-EU development issues

Briefing session n. 21

Geopolitics of Food

2nd February 2010 – 8h30 – 13h00

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

Biodata of speakers

Jean-Pierre Boris – RFI

Journalist since the late 1970s, Jean-Pierre Boris joined RFI in 1982. For many years he covered Latin-American news, from the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua, the popular uprising against General Pinochet in Chile, the Shining Path guerrilla in Peru up the most recent general elections in Mexico. This interest led him to write several political books. Since 1998, Jean-Pierre Boris has focused his work on the economics of commodities. For seven years until 2005, he was the author of a daily broadcast programme on RFI on Commodities. Subsequently he published various books on Inequal trade (the black book on commodities) and “Hands off our rice” (the history of the rice crisis in 2008). Jean-Pierre Boris is also the co-author of a documentary on rice broadcasted on Arte. This documentary won the “FIPA d’Or” at the Biarritz International Festival of Audiovisual Programming in January 2010. For the last three years Jean-Pierre Boris covers the African economic news.

Sylvie Brunel – Paris IV, Sorbonne

A geographer, economist and French writer, Sylvie Brunel is an expert in the field of development and food security. Professor in geography at Paul-Valéry University, Montpellier, then at Paris-Sorbonne Paris IV where she leads a professional master’s degree on sustainable development for Southern countries. She holds a PHD in Geography and economics, a Master in Public Law and she is graduated from the Training Institute of Journalists. From 2002 to 2007, was professor at Paul Valéry University, Montpellier III and, from 1988 to 2007, at the Paris Institute of Political Studies. From 1984 to 1989, Sylvie Brunel worked for Médecins sans Frontières, then from 1989 to 2002 for Action contre la Faim (ACF) as a strategic adviser, director and President. She was elected “woman of the year” in 1991 and was part of a group of personalities on African development to the Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1991 to 1996. She is also a member of the Haut Conseil de la Coopération Internationale, he is today administrator of Farm Foundation and an associate member of the Royal Academy of Belgium. She has published some twenty books on development.

Mohamed Ibn Chambas - ACP Group of States

Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas is the Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group since 1 March 2010. He was the former President of the Commission and Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), from February 2002 to February 2010. As head of the fifteen-member West African regional organisation, Dr. Chambas successfully positioned ECOWAS as a model regional organisation in Africa. Under his guidance, the Organisation adopted a new strategic vision and embarked on a profound restructuring of its institutions to make them more relevant to the needs of member states in the regional development and integration process.

Prior to heading the ECOWAS Secretariat, Dr. Chambas was a Member of Parliament in Ghana, where he served at various periods as First Deputy Speaker of Parliament and chaired various committees. He also held deputy ministerial posts in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Higher Education of his country.

Besides Ghana, Dr. Chambas had worked in the United States including teaching at Oberlin College Ohio, and practicing law with The Greater Cleveland Legal Aid Society and the Cleveland, Ohio, Law Office of Forbes, Forbes and Teamor. He also served from 1997 to 2001 on the Cornell University Council, the first African to serve on the Council of the prestigious Ivy-league American University.

Olivier De Schutter - Special Rapporteur on the right to food, United Nations Human Rights Council

Professor De Schutter was appointed by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations as Special Rapporteur on the right to food in March 2008, and he inaugurated his mandate on May 1st, 2008. His threeyear mandate is to monitor and report on the right to food to the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council. A specialist in human rights, Olivier De Schutter teaches at the University of Louvain (Belgium) and the College of Europe (Natolin Campus, Poland). He is a Visiting Professor at Columbia University and a Member of the Global Law School Faculty of New York University. He was also previously Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).

More info on www.srfood.org

Ousmane Djibo - NEPAD

Ousmane Djibo is the co-ordinator of the NPCA's Sustainable Land and Water Resources Management (SLM) flagship programme, which includes the TerrAfrica Secretariat, the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), Agency-UNEP capacity strengthening programme of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Agriculture Climate Change initiative. Previously, he worked as co-ordinator of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process in West and Central Africa. Before joining the NEPAD Secretariat in 2008, he was in charge of the microfinance and agribusiness component of the GTZ agriculture programme in Burkina Faso. He holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Marburg (Germany) and a Master's degree in Development Economics from the University of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

Hafez Ghanem - FAO

Hafez Ghanem – who holds a Ph.D in Economics from the University of California, Davis – is a development expert with extensive experience in policy analysis, project formulation and supervision and management of multinational institutions. He has worked in Africa, Europe, Asia, Middle East and North Africa. He joined the FAO in 2007 as the Assistant Director-General responsible for the Economic and Social Development Department where he is responsible for FAO's analytical work on food security, agriculture development, trade and markets, gender and equity, and statistics. It produces three FAO flagship publications: *The State of Food and Agriculture*, *The State of Food Insecurity* and *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets*. Prior to joining FAO, he spent twenty-four years at the World Bank where he started as a research economist and then senior economist in West Africa and later South Asia. Mr Ghanem has many publications in professional journals and was a member of the core team that produced the 1995 World Development Report.

Michael Hailu - CTA

Michael Hailu, an Ethiopian national, is the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). Mr. Hailu has over 25 years of professional experience working in Africa and Asia in communications and knowledge management in agriculture and related areas. Prior to joining CTA at the end of May 2010, Mr. Hailu was Director of Communications and a member of the Senior Leadership Team of the World Agroforestry Centre based in Nairobi, Kenya. From 1999-2007, Mr. Hailu lived and worked in Indonesia as Director of Information at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Mr. Hailu has degrees in Information Sciences and Economics from the University of Pittsburgh in the United States and Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He has also been trained in strategic leadership at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Hans Herren - Millennium Institute/IAASTD

Dr. Hans Herren, an internationally recognized scientist, is the President of the Millennium Institute (MI) since May 2005. During his professional career, Dr. Herren developed and implemented programs in the area of human, animal, plant and environmental health as they relate to insect issues. Moreover, he conceived and implemented the highly successful biological control program that saved the African cassava crop, and averted Africa's worst-ever food crisis.

Over the years, Dr. Herren has moved his interests toward integrated sustainable development, in particular, linking environmental, plant, animal, and human health issues. He earned a Ph.D. at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland, and holds numerous awards that recognize his distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Dr. Herren serves on the boards of numerous organizations, including co-chairing the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science & Technology, (IAASTD); chairman of Biovision, a Swiss foundation committed to ecological development.

Doaa Abdel Motaal - WTO

Doaa Abdel Motaal is Counsellor in the Office of the Director-General of the WTO, where she is responsible for a number of subjects, including Doha Round agricultural and environmental negotiations. Prior to joining the Director-General's Office, she was working in the WTO's Trade and Environment Division for 8 years. She was Secretary of the negotiating group on environment that was established in the Doha Round. Ms. Abdel Motaal has a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Geneva, a Master of Philosophy degree in environment and development studies from the University of Cambridge and a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. Her doctoral dissertation was the The Role of Science and Risk Assessment in WTO Rules.