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## **Invitation to the informal meeting of EU Development Ministers and the informal ACP-EU dialogue on 12 and 13 March 2007 in Bonn Petersberg**

Dear Colleagues,

From 12 to 13 March 2007, the informal meeting of EU Development Ministers and the informal ACP-EU Dialogue will take place, chaired by the German Development Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, at the Petersberg near Bonn.

The key topic of these meetings will be the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the European Union and the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Region. The EU ministers will discuss the pro-development design of the Economic Partnership Agreements and will meet for discussions with ministers from 30 ACP countries. This will be the first time that the EU and the ACP countries have met within the framework of an EU ministerial meeting.

Given the fact that globalisation is a growing phenomenon, it is to be hoped that the Economic Partnership Agreements can be used to help improve the economic opportunities available to the EU's partner countries. The goal being pursued during the German EU Presidency is to achieve better linkage of trade and development. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul: "It is important that the EU sends a clear signal that the Economic Partnership Agreements will benefit the developing countries by enabling them to participate in global trade in a more just way."

Other topics which the EU Development Ministers will address are complementarity and the division of labour in European development policy, and energy and development.

Guests at the conference:

- Paul Wolfowitz, World Bank President
- Dr. Michael Otto, Chairman of the Board of the Otto Group and founder of the initiative "Cotton - made in Africa"
- Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

- Louis Michel, Member of the European Commission, responsible for development and humanitarian aid
- Peter Mandelson, Member of the European Commission, responsible for the EU's foreign trade policy

The Conference will begin on Monday, 12 March 2007, at 7:30 pm with a reception for the EU and ACP Ministers and will end on Tuesday, 13 March 2007, at 5:30 pm.

Selected press events during the Conference:

Monday, 12 March 2007

7:30 pm: Photo opportunity at the start of the reception for the EU Development Ministers and the ACP Ministers

Tuesday, 13 March 2007

8:45 am: Family photo at the start of the working session for the EU Development Ministers

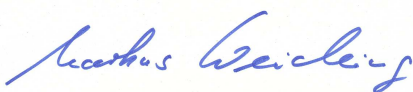
12:00 to 12:30 pm: Press conference given by the German EU Presidency

2:30 pm: Family photos of the EU Development Ministers with the ACP Ministers at the start of the informal ACP-EU Dialogue on Economic Partnership Agreements

Enclosed with this letter you will find further organisational information (Technical Notes) about the conference venue, accreditation, registration, travel arrangements and programme.

If you have any questions, Mr Holger Illi, Press Division,  
Tel. +49 (0)30 2503 2451, will be glad to help you.

Yours faithfully,



Markus Weidling