

COMESA Secretary-General, Mr Sindiso Ngwenya commended the European Union for being supportive towards the implementation of programmes in the region.

He added that the EU is the largest provider of development assistance but said that the inflows in form of grants to the recipient countries have not brought about structural changes to the economies, most of which have remained dependent on a few primary commodities for their exports.

He also expressed concern over the lengthy and bureaucratic procedures which hinder the smooth and timely implementation of programmes.

The Secretary General said that programming decisions made under the 10th EDF have been characterized by lengthy, bureaucratic procedures which, although are transparent, consensual and follow good governance processes, sacrifice the usefulness of the grant funds by not being useful to the private and commercial sector.

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