

ABSTRACT

THE EU APPROACH TO DEMOCRACY PROMOTION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAIN ACTION?

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This paper tries to find out whether the common critique that donors put too much emphasis on the procedural aspects of democracy also applies to the European Union. This question is investigated on the basis of a qualitative case study analysis of the EU's use of incentives, sanctions, democracy assistance and diplomatic efforts in four Sub-Saharan African countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Togo and Liberia. The paper finds that, although the EU moved beyond a purely procedural conception of democracy by addressing issues such as human rights, the rule of law and good governance, the main decisions with regard to aid resumption were based on progress in the electoral process. This was only partly compensated with democracy assistance, which was mostly devoted to the electoral process during the period of aid suspension.