

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance: Peacebuilding Partnership

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Proposal: A Peacebuilding Partnership under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

We propose that the EU introduces a Peacebuilding Partnership into all the financial instruments that cover regions affected by armed conflict and/or where there is a strong risk of conflict, including the IPA.

Why a Peacebuilding Partnership under the IPA?

Preventing conflict is one of the key objectives of EU external action, as stipulated in the Lisbon Treaty and as set out in EU policy documents, including the 2001 EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict (Gothenburg Programme) and the 2007 Council conclusions on security and development.

The EU has positive experiences of supporting peace, including:

- ***The Peacebuilding Partnership under the Instrument for Stability*** – provides support to peacebuilding work by civil society organisations, EU Member State agencies and international organisations. While extremely important, its global reach and the limited funds available mean that it is massively over-subscribed.
- ***The PEACE Programmes in Northern Ireland*** – supports the consolidation of the peace process, including supporting activities from the highest political levels to community-based peace work.

There is far more that the EU could do to prevent conflict and build peace. Since the EU's regional instruments were designed, there has been increasing recognition of the importance to the EU of preventing conflict and building lasting peace. Conflict elsewhere in the world is a security risk for the EU and undermines the EU's attempts to meet other policy objectives, including under its development, human rights, trade and energy policies.

There is now a body of evidence which testifies to the effectiveness of peacebuilding, including long- and short-term measures to prevent the outbreak or re-emergence of conflict.

The New EU Multiannual Financial Framework: An Opportunity

The ongoing preparation of the next EU multiannual financial framework (MFF) and the review of the EU's external financing instruments provide an excellent opportunity to adapt the regional instruments, including the IPA, in order to incorporate a Peacebuilding Partnership.

The IPA Peacebuilding Partnership could be tailored to support the needs of the region, including support to the consolidation of peace and mitigation of the risk of conflict in both candidate and potential candidate countries.

More information

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