

## Summary of EPLO's specific recommendations for reforming the EU's external co-operation programmes

March 2013

### Overall

- Increase the amount of funding available for the Instrument for Stability (IfS), the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance II (IPA II), and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)
- Integrate peacebuilding into all relevant EU funding programmes and policies.
- Include a clear commitment to conflict sensitivity and to the use of conflict assessments in all relevant external financing instruments

### 1. Instrument for Stability\*

- Increase the proportion of funding for Article 4 (Assistance for conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and peace-building)
- Maintain the minimum proportion funding for Article 3 (Assistance in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis to prevent conflicts) at no less than 70% of the total
- Include an explicit reference to the Peacebuilding Partnership in Article 4
- Remove the reference to 'natural' disasters from Annex I and remove the reference to 'post-disaster recovery' from Annex II (Areas of technical and financial assistance as referred to in Article 4)
- Remove the reference to 'strengthening capacities to participate in civilian stabilization missions' from Annex II
- Include an explicit reference to a specific role for civil society organisations in relevant activities under Article 5 (Assistance in addressing global and transregional threats)

### 2. Development Cooperation Instrument\*

- Include 'peace' as an objective of EU external action to be supported in Article 2 (Objectives and eligibility criteria)
- Include 'the promotion of peace and the prevention of violent conflicts' as criteria for increasing or decreasing funding in Article 11 (Programming documents for geographic programmes)
- Add the following clause to Article 16 (Suspension of assistance): 'In such cases, Union assistance shall primarily be used to support civil society organisations for measures aimed at promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and supporting democratisation and dialogue processes in partner countries'
- Include 'peace' as a principle which the EU seeks to promote, develop and consolidate through dialogue and co-operation with third countries and regions in Article 3 (General principles)
- Include 'the promotion of peace and the prevention of violent conflict' as cross-cutting issues to be mainstreamed in all programmes in Article 3
- Include 'conflict sensitivity' in the list of issues to which 'particular attention shall be given' in Article 3

- Include a reference to ‘peacebuilding and conflict prevention’ in the list of areas to be supported under the programme ‘Global public goods and challenges’ in Article 7 (Global public goods and challenges); include ‘peacebuilding and conflict prevention’ in the list of areas of co-operation in Annex V (Areas of activity under thematic programmes); and include ‘peacebuilding and conflict prevention’ and an indicative financial allocation in the list of areas of co-operation in Annex VII (Indicative financial allocation for the period 2014-2020)
- Remove Article 9 (Pan-African programme)
- Include an explicit reference to the need to base the programming of EU assistance in countries and regions in crisis, post-crisis or fragile situations on thorough conflict assessments in Article 12
- Include ‘peacebuilding and conflict prevention’ in the list of issues under the sub-heading ‘Human rights, democracy and other key elements of good governance’ in Annex IV (Areas of cooperation under geographic programmes)

### **3. European Neighbourhood Instrument\***

- Include the partner country’s commitment to ‘the promotion of peace and the prevention and settlement of violent conflicts’ as an additional criterion for differentiating EU support in Article 4
- Add the following clause to Article 17 (Suspension of assistance): ‘In such cases, Union assistance shall primarily be used to support civil society organisations for measures aimed at promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and supporting democratisation and dialogue processes in partner countries’

### **4. Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance II\***

- Include ‘reconciliation and peacebuilding’ in the list of areas to be assessed in Article 2 (Specific Objectives)
- Add the following clause to Article 13 (Suspension of assistance): ‘In such cases, Union assistance shall primarily be used to support civil society organisations for measures aimed at promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and supporting democratisation and dialogue processes in partner countries’
- Include ‘peacebuilding and conflict prevention’ as policy areas to be addressed in Article 3

### **5. European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights\***

- Include an explicit reference to ‘civil society organisations’ in Article 2.1(d)(iv) (Scope)

### **6. Partnership Instrument**

- Include an explicit reference to ‘peace’ in Article 1 (Subject matter and objectives)

### **7. Common Rules and Procedures**

- Add a new sub-article on ‘commitment to undertaking conflict assessments for projects and programmes’ to Article 2 (Adoption of action programmes, individual measures and special measures)

\* In addition to our specific recommendations for changes to the new regulations, we also support a number of elements from the EC’s proposals. See the statement [‘EU funding for peacebuilding: EPLO’s recommendations for reforming the EU’s external co-operation programmes’](#) for more details.