

EPLO activities in EU Member States aimed at strengthening EU peacebuilding policy

Recommendations from Member State meeting

This document summarises the recommendations which came out of the meeting entitled **EU, Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding: What role for Germany?** which took place in Berlin on 29 October 2013. For more information please visit [EPLO's website](#).

During the meeting, Germany's approach to EU foreign policy, conflict prevention and peacebuilding and specifically to the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) were discussed. This document captures the recommendations made by participants covering these issues.

Germany's approach to EU foreign policy: What place for conflict prevention and peacebuilding?

Recommendations to policy makers:

1) EU officials:

- Agree on the Joint Communication of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission (EC) on the Comprehensive Approach (CA) as a sign of commitment to co-operation across institutions;
- Define the CA broadly, beyond civil-military integration, in order to ensure that the relationship between different policy areas is addressed;
- Make use of the added flexibility in the legal instruments governing development assistance to ensure that the EU is able to react to crises and integrate conflict prevention and peacebuilding measures where needed;
- Make better use of development assistance to tackle the causes of conflict and intensify the efforts to promote an institution wide culture of conflict sensitivity;
- Continue and strengthen the dialogue with civil society on peacebuilding issues, integrate their expertise in strategic decision making and share the results of conflict analysis with CSOs.

2) Government officials in Germany:

- Build on Germany's support to the EEAS and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP) and push for an ambitious mid-term review process and further strengthening of EU external action;
- Use Germany's detailed analysis of EU institutions, calibre of diplomatic staff and capacity to engage to push for the necessary institutional reforms to make EU external action more effective;
- Prepare a national concept for an international peace policy on the basis of the Action Plan for Civil Conflict Prevention (2004) as an basis for Germany's input into EU policy (e.g. the Communication on the CA);
- Support the EU to develop a strategic approach in response to crises;
- Second German officials with conflict expertise to work in the EEAS;
- Identify possible candidates for the position of HR/VP and Development Commissioner in view of the changes in 2014;
- Further develop partnerships with other international actors in the area of conflict prevention and mediation such as the OSCE and the UN;
- Play a role in bridging other Member State's differing geographic interests in either the Southern or Eastern neighbourhood;
- Support the EU institutions in their endeavour to develop a Joint EEAS and EC

Communication on the CA, and provide input especially in those policy areas that fall under the CA that are less well developed than CSDP;

- Participate in inter-service missions such as the one that was undertaken to Mali which brought together representatives from the EEAS, DG DEVCO and Member States;
- Act as a partner for the implementation of the New Deal commitments in a New Deal pilot country (e.g. EU is the partner in Somalia);
- Engage with the European Commission in joint-programming of development assistance (informed by a conflict analysis) and align bilateral engagement and priorities accordingly;
- Develop an overall approach to articulate Germany's mainly peaceful foreign policy and to ensure that civilian conflict prevention informs Germany's external action;
- Rectify the difference in resources spend on military and civilian expertise in response to conflict at the national and EU level;
- Integrate mediation into the training of diplomats;
- Decide on stricter arms control regulations at the national level and advocate for the same at the EU level to ensure that Germany's foreign policy regarding conflict prevention is not undermined by arms exports.

Strengthening civilian CSDP – using the European Council Summit in December 2013

Recommendations to policy makers:

EU officials:

- Use the opportunity of the European Council Summit to initiate a discussion on how CSDP can be better integrated into the overall approach of the EU to a third country;
- Further review the policies underlying crisis management activities to ensure that they are based on evidence about effective response to conflict;
- Support Germany's suggestion of a core team of civilian experts that support the launching of CSDP missions in the preparations of the European Council Summit;
- Ensure the involvement of civil society in the planning and implementation of CSDP missions;
- Ensure that development assistance is used to support and later follow-up on the progress that CSDP missions have achieved in a specific country or region.

Government officials in Germany:

- Continue to put forward a vision of CSDP as a vehicle for collective European action and lead on the discussion on the added value of CSDP to obtain a shared understanding among Member States on civilian CSDP;
- Use the European Council Summit to provide crisis management structures inside the EEAS with strategic guidance on CSDP;
- Support the integration of CSDP into a longer-term planning of the EU approach;
- Monitor the Crisis Management Concepts that are developed by the Crisis Management Planning Department (CMPD) to prepare CSDP missions to ensure that the necessary elements, including relation between the mission and longer-term EU assistance or engagement with other actors such as the UN are addressed properly;
- Balance the excessive focus on the military dimension of CSDP in preparations for the European Council Summit and the overall discussion on CSDP by highlighting the importance of civilian CSDP;
- Support the effectiveness of CSDP by pushing for revision of policies underlying civilian crisis management, assessment of the impact of missions and evaluation of missions involving external stakeholders;
- Make civilian CSDP more effective by supporting the amendments of the financial

arrangements covering CSDP;

- Support CSDP through increasing national secondments of civilian experts into CSDP missions and crisis management bodies in Brussels; Use the upcoming recruitment of the new Head of the CMPD to propose and support a candidate who is suitably qualified to lead the EU's crisis management engagement in highly complex and for the most part civilian CSDP missions;
- Increase the commitment to co-operate between the federal government and federal state governments (Länder) to ensure that Germany meets its commitments regarding the secondment of police officers.

Recommendations to civil society (including think tanks and academics):

- Raise awareness of the need to strengthen civilian approaches and illustrate the variety of such approaches in order to ensure that the role that civilian CSDP plays in ensuring overall effectiveness of CSDP is adequately considered;
- Monitor arms export practices in order to ensure that a decrease in export opportunities within Europe does not lead to an increase of exports to non-European countries with a problematic track record on human rights and military-development expenditure ratios;

As part of the preparation for the European Council Summit and in discussion of CSDP in general:

- Campaign against excessive focus on military CSDP;
- Critically analyze proposed support to the defence industry.

EPLO's suggestions for follow-up and possible next steps

EPLO will be taking forward the recommendations related to the EEAS, the Comprehensive Approach and CSDP in its work on EU institutions and policies. For more information, please contact Josephine Liebl (jl Liebl@eplo.org).

EPLO will continue to work with and monitor EU Member States' role in EU policy-making on peace and conflict issues and identify the opportunities for them to make the EU more effective in peacebuilding. For more information, please contact Josephine Liebl (jl Liebl@eplo.org).



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