

Roundtable

The role of Italy in EU peacebuilding and conflict prevention

Wednesday 4 June 2014 . 13:15 - 17:40
 European Parliament Information Office in Rome
 Via IV Novembre, 149 - I-00187 Roma



Agenda

13h15 . 14h00	Registration and informal lunch
14h00 . 14h05	Welcome and opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Ractliffe, Head of Information Office of the European Parliament in Rome (TBC) • Bernardo Venturi, Director of Centro Studi Difesa Civile (CSDC)
14h05 . 15h30	<p>Session 1: Italy's approach to EU foreign policy: what priorities for EU peacebuilding and conflict prevention ahead of the Italian Presidency of the EU?</p> <p>Three years after its creation, the European External Action Service (EEAS), in charge of defining and implementing the EU's external action, has had a significant role in developing conflict policy and mediation expertise within its own structure. It is undergoing a review process which gave the opportunity to Member States to express their vision for EU foreign policy and peacebuilding activities. Traditionally, Italy has been an advocate for a stronger role of the EU in foreign policy, especially when it comes to the European neighborhood. In July 2014, Italy will take on the presidency of the EU for six months.</p> <p>Issues to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the state of play regarding EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding policy and practice? • How does Italy view its role in EU foreign policy and how can it strengthen the EU as a peacebuilding actor? What are the priorities for the Italian presidency of the EU starting in July 2014? • What should be the priorities of the EEAS regarding conflict prevention? What is the added value of the EU as a peacebuilding actor? <p>Chair: Elisabetta Brighi, University of Cambridge</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luigi Mattiolo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Department for European Affairs (TBC) • Andrew Byrne, European External Action Service, Division for Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Mediation Instruments (K2) • Chiara Biscaldi, International Crisis Group <p>Followed by a facilitated discussion</p>
15H30 . 16h00	Coffee break

16h00 . 17h30	<p>Session 2: Italy’s approach to CSDP after the European Council summit on CSDP of December 2013</p> <p>EPLO and its member organisations actively engaged with Member states to ensure that the civilian dimension of CSDP is discussed during the EU Summit on Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) which took place on 19-20 December 2013. Ahead of the Italian presidency of the EU (July-December 2014), this session will discuss the conclusions of the Summit with regards to the civilian dimension and will look at the Italian approach of CSDP.</p> <p>Issues to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Italy’s vision for the future of CSDP? • How can CSDP be made more effective? Which policy decisions are necessary and how can EU Member States support them. <p>Chair: Marta Martinelli, Open Society European Policy Institute</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alessandro Azzoni, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, CFSP/CSDP Unit • Giovanni Cremonini, European External Action Service, Crisis Management and Planning Division • Sanne Tielemans, Conciliation Resources <p>Followed by a facilitated discussion</p>
17h30-17h40	Conclusions

This meeting is part of EPLO’s EU Member State Advocacy. The purpose of this work is to mobilise support for EU peacebuilding in the EU’s Member States given that they remain key decision-makers in EU policy. The work was piloted under the Civil Society Dialogue Network, which is a three-year project co-funded by the European Union (Instrument for Stability) aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and EU policymakers. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).



With the support of the Europe for Citizens Project of the European Union

EPLO is grateful for the support of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.