



Civil Society Dialogue Network - Member State Meeting Austria

The EU, conflict prevention and peacebuilding: State of play and the role of civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

Thursday, 16 October 2014 (13h30 – 17h30)

Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
Minoritenplatz 8, A-1014 Vienna

Background and objectives:

Since 2011, EPLO has organised 19 policy meetings in EU Member States (MS) to bring the discussion about the EU, conflict prevention and peacebuilding into capitals.

The objectives of Member State meetings are to:

- discuss the EU's role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, as well as its history as a peace project with CSOs and policy-makers at the MS level;
- mobilize a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of CSOs from the specific EU MS and beyond, think tanks, academia and national policy-makers, to engage in advocacy work on the EU and peacebuilding;
- increase understanding of EU peacebuilding and the role of MS in supporting the EU to realise its potential in peacebuilding;
- identify opportunities for EU MS to support EU peacebuilding and to align their policies within the EU context;

Format and participants:

To allow for dialogue among civil society and policy-makers from Austria and EU institutions, the meeting will be set up in roundtable format. Formal interventions will be kept short to allow enough time for an interactive discussion with all participants.

Participants will include civil society from Austria and beyond, policy-makers from Austria and representatives from EU institutions, including the European External Action Service (EEAS), Directorate General for Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid (DG DEVCO) and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI). The meeting will bring together ca 35 participants.

Background documents and meeting outputs:

In preparation of the meeting, relevant background documents will be circulated to participants. A meeting report, summarising the main points of discussion and recommendations, will be prepared after the meeting.

The Civil Society Dialogue Network:

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Instrument for Stability). It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), a civil society network, in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The second phase of the CSDN will last from 2014 to 2016. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).

Agenda

13h30	Registration
13h45	<p>Welcome and objectives of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philipp Agathonos, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs • Catherine Woollard, EPLO
14h00	<p>The EU, conflict prevention and peacebuilding – state of play</p> <p>Since the Lisbon Treaty came into effect five years ago, the EU has made considerable advances in increasing its conflict prevention and peacebuilding capacity. This session will assess the progress so far and identify existing challenges and upcoming opportunities for the EU to become a more effective peacebuilding actor.</p> <p>Questions to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effective is the EU at preventing conflict and building peace? • What are the current obstacles for the EU becoming more active and effective in conflict prevention and how could those be overcome? • How can Austria support the EU's peacebuilding efforts? <p>Contributions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amb. Georg Lennkh, former GD for Development Cooperation • Holger Osterrieder, EEAS • Catherine Woollard, EPLO <p>Moderator: Dr. Blanka Bellak, Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution</p>
15h30	Coffee break
16h00	<p>The role of civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in conflict prevention</p> <p>The EU currently deploys 17 CSDP missions worldwide, the majority of which are civilian. Austria is among the Member States leading the further development of civilian CSDP as a policy instrument, including for conflict prevention. The session will address how civilian CSDP can be made more effective and how its conflict prevention potential can be strengthened.</p> <p>Questions to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the priorities for increasing the effectiveness of civilian CSDP? What should be the focus for the preparation of the European Council Summit in June 2015 where CSDP will be discussed? • How can CSDP contribute to conflict prevention specifically and what are the opportunities to develop the role of CSDP in conflict prevention? • How can Austria as a Member State with expertise and interest in civilian CSDP further support its development? <p>Contributions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philipp Agathonos, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs • Maria Fihl Vetting, EEAS, Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability • Arno Truger, Austrian Peacebuilding Platform <p>Moderator: Josephine Liebl, EPLO</p>
17h30	End of meeting