



# Flash Recommendations

## CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE NETWORK

### Member State Meeting Romania

## Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans

Tuesday, 28 June 2011

This document presents the key recommendations made by participants at the CSDN meeting. These recommendations do not necessarily represent the views of the organisers, nor can they be attributed to any individual participants or participating institutions.

### On the EU, conflict prevention and peacebuilding

- Human resources for conflict prevention and peacebuilding need to be increased both in Brussels and at Delegation level;
- For the EU to be an effective foreign policy actor, it needs to have a coherent approach towards conflicts in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Neighbourhood;
- As a peace project in itself, the EU should increase its peacebuilding impact by exporting some of the elements the project is based on e.g. equal representation, continuous dialogue and negotiation etc.

### On the EU's financial support to peacebuilding

- The EU should increase its efforts to coordinate Member States' assistance as well as financial support from the different EU institutions to countries in both the Western Balkans and the Eastern Neighbourhood;
- Stronger monitoring systems need to be put into place to ensure that EU assistance is used effectively and for the purpose it was given;
- EU funding has to be made both more flexible and more easily accessible to ensure that civil society working on peacebuilding can be supported in a timely manner.

### On the Republic of Moldova and Eastern Neighbourhood Policy

- Economic factors, such as custom and trade facilitation should become part of an overall peacebuilding approach rather than being treated separately; in this respect, the EU should use its economic leverage to promote peace in the negotiations for the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTA);

- Business actors should be included in conflict resolution efforts;
- The EU should consider establishing initiatives similar to the EU joint co-operation initiative in Crimea (which brings together 13 EU Member States and is an example of a successful EU initiative for conflict prevention) in other countries of the Eastern Neighbourhood;
- As EU policy makers, Member States should support peace in the neighbourhood, for example, Poland in their role as Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2011;
- The EU should work with Ukraine in preparation of and during its Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2013 to play a constructive role in the Republic of Moldova/Transnistria conflict;
- The EU should provide a mechanism for civil society input and consultation in the annual progress reports of the Neighbourhood countries, similar to the one that is already in place for the Accession countries.

#### **On the Western Balkans and Accession Policy:**

- Peacebuilding should be included as a priority in the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA);
- Cross-border co-operation programmes in the Western Balkans should incorporate peacebuilding as an objective and include conflict sensitivity in their guidelines;
- The EU should acknowledge that peacebuilding is an ongoing process which will have to be supported also after the countries of the Western Balkans accede to the EU;
- EU programmes and policies should reflect the importance that dealing in the past constitutes for the Western Balkans; in this respect, the RECOM initiatives needs to be supported more strongly by the EU;
- The accountability of CSDP missions towards the societies they are based in needs to be increased.

#### **Civil Society Dialogue Network**

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a three-year project funded by the European Commission aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and the EU institutions.

For more information about the Civil Society Dialogue Network, please visit the [EPLO website](#).