



**Civil Society Dialogue Network Member State Meeting:
Peacebuilding, Statebuilding and Situations of Fragility**

Wednesday 6 April 2011

The Hague, The Netherlands

A one-day Member State Civil Society Dialogue Network meeting took place on Wednesday 6 April 2011 in The Hague, The Netherlands. Entitled 'Peacebuilding, Statebuilding and Situations of Fragility', the aim of this meeting was to encourage a discussion and exchange of ideas between EU officials, representatives of the Government of the Netherlands and civil society organisations from both Europe and conflict-affected regions on the current status of the EU's policies on conflict prevention, peacebuilding and situations of fragility; and on how they will be incorporated and developed within the European External Action Service (EEAS).

The meeting began with opening remarks from the Dutch Minister for European Affairs and International Co-operation, Ben Knapen, and the Chair of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Emmanuel Bombande.

The focus of the first session was on the state of play regarding the EU's approach to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and situations of fragility. It was chaired by Peter van Tuijl (GPPAC), and included presentations from Marc van Bellinghen, Acting Head of the Peacebuilding, Conflict Prevention and Mediation Unit in the EEAS; Pieter-Jan Kleiweg de Zwaan, Head of External Affairs in the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Directorate of European Integration; and Catherine Woollard (EPLO).

The focus of the second session was on how the EU could draw on the experience of the Netherlands in its response to situations of fragility. It was chaired by Erik Laan (IKV Pax Christi) and included presentations from Reverend Ramadan Liol, General Secretary of the Sudan Council of Churches; Koen Davidse, Director of the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs' Peacebuilding and Stabilisation Unit; and Agata Nieboj from the Panafrican issues and Institutions, Governance and Migration Unit in the European Commission's EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Directorate-General.

The meeting ended with a brief presentation by the meeting rapporteur, Laura Davis, of some of her initial observations.

The meeting brought together approximately 100 participants including representatives of EPLO member organisations and other civil society organisations, and officials from both the EU institutions and the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs.