



Civil Society Dialogue Network

Policy Meeting The EU and Peacebuilding – Taking Stock

Thursday, 26 March 2015
Silken Berlaymont Hotel,
Boulevard Charlemagne/Karel de Grotelaan 11-19, 1000 Brussels

Background

The EU has been committed to ‘preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security’ since the Lisbon Treaty (Article 21.2(c)). While the EU has been developing several tools and resources to respond to conflict, the global environment has been changing too, with a series of acute crises and more and increasingly complex conflicts taking place around the world.

This roundtable aims at taking stock of these external and internal changes in order to identify opportunities and challenges to make the EU more effective at building peace.

Objectives

- Identify key trends in conflicts and armed violence and their implications for the EU
- Take stock of the EU’s strengths in responding to conflict
- Gather recommendations to improve the EU’s response to conflict, including for the upcoming review of the European Security Strategy and evaluation of the EEAS, as well as the implementation of the Comprehensive Approach.

Participants

40 participants from civil society, including think-tanks and academics, as well as officials from EU Institutions and Member States

Format

Panels followed by open but strictly facilitated roundtable discussions under the Chatham House rule.

Agenda

13:45	Registration
14:00	<p>The role of the EU in the new global context</p> <p>International affairs are characterised by a series of acute crises. Since 2010 the trend towards a decline in the number of conflicts taking place globally has been reversed. More and increasingly complex conflicts are taking place, featuring fragmented armed groups, extensive cross border dynamics and de-stabilising effects, including increasing overlap between criminal and political violence.</p> <p>In view of the upcoming European Council and the discussions on the review of the European Security Strategy, the issues to be addressed are:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most important changes to the global context that will have an impact on the EU? • What is the comparative advantage of the EU as a global player? • What priorities/implications for a new European Security Strategy? <p>Contributions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander Marschik, Austrian Ambassador to the Political and Security Committee • Joëlle Jenny, Directorate for Security Policy and Conflict Prevention, EEAS • Sanne Tielemans, Conciliation Resources <p>Followed by a facilitated discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Search for Common Ground</p>
15:30	Coffee Break
16:00	<p>Improving the EU's response to conflict</p> <p>In the last five years, the EU has developed new tools and resources to respond to conflict, including the creation of the European External Action Service and the development of a Comprehensive Approach. This session will discuss how effective this has been and whether the EU is equipped to build peace.</p> <p>Issues to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What impact has the development of new tools and resources had? • How can the EU's response to conflict be improved? • What are the obstacles to effective peacebuilding by the EU? <p>Contributions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piritta Asunmaa, Finnish Ambassador to the Political and Security Committee • Malgorzata Wasilewska, Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Mediation Instruments Division, EEAS • Andrew Sherriff, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) • Catherine Woollard, Independent Diplomat <p>Followed by a facilitated discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Nicolas Rougy, Interpeace</p>
17:30	End of meeting, discussions can continue over reception

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](#).