

Summary of Briefing Paper1/2014: Support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the EU's external financing instruments 2014-2020

Introduction

Throughout 2012 and 2013, EPLO undertook advocacy aimed at influencing the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the period 2014-2020 (i.e. the EU's long-term budget) and the regulations establishing the EU's external financing instruments for the corresponding period.

The regulation establishing the MFF 2014-2020 was adopted by the Council of the EU on 2 December 2013 and the regulations establishing the EU's external co-operation programmes, including the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) were adopted on 15 March 2014.

This abridged version of EPLO's latest briefing paper sets out elements of the new regulations relating to EU support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention in its external actions. These regulations provide the legal basis for the EU's funding programmes ('instruments').

Overall

The overall MFF 2014-2020 was set at € 959.988 billion. This is significantly lower than the level which the European Commission proposed in June 2011 (€ 1025 billion) and lower even than the level for the MFF 2007-2013 (€ 994.176 billion).

Despite the decrease in the overall MFF, the level of funding available for external actions (Heading 4) increased from € 56.815 billion in the MFF 2007-2013 to € 58.704. (NB/ When inflation is taken into account, this represents a real terms decrease.)

The level of funding for external actions also increased proportionally from 5.71% of the total in the MFF 2007-2013 to 6.12%.

Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace

The Instrument for Stability (IfS), which has been the main EU external funding instrument for supporting peacebuilding and conflict prevention, now includes an explicit reference to peace in its title: 'Instrument contributing to Peace and Stability' (IcSP).

The financial allocation for the IcSP is € 2.339 billion for the MFF 2014-2020, of which at least 70% has been earmarked for activities under Article 3 (Assistance in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis to prevent conflicts) and 9% for activities under Article 4 (Assistance for conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness).

Development Cooperation Instrument

The financial allocation for the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) for MFF 2014-2020 is € 19.662 billion.

The DCI does not include any references to peacebuilding or conflict prevention in its overall objectives. However, conflict prevention is listed among the issues to be mainstreamed in all programmes together with: '(...) the promotion of dialogue, participation and reconciliation, as well as institution building (...)'.

The DCI Regulation also lists 'development and security, including conflict prevention' as one of the areas of co-

operation to be supported under the geographic programmes.

The DCI Regulation also provides for attention to be paid to 'conflict prevention, State and peace building, post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction measures' in programming countries and regions in crisis, post-crisis or situations of fragility.

European Neighbourhood Instrument

The financial allocation for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) for MFF 2014-2020 is € 15.433 billion.

The general objective of the ENI includes: 'developing a special relationship founded on cooperation, peace and security, mutual accountability and a shared commitment to the universal values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in accordance with the TEU'.

One of the specific objectives of the ENI is: 'promoting confidence-building, good neighbourly relations and other measures contributing to security in all its forms and the prevention and settlement of conflicts, including protracted conflicts.'

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance II

The financial allocation for the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) for MFF 2014-2020 is € 11.699 billion.

The general objective of the IPA includes: 'contribute to stability, security and prosperity in the [candidate and potential candidate countries].'

One of the specific objectives of the IPA II includes 'regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations' and 'promotion of reconciliation, peace-building and confidence-building measures'.

European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

The financial allocation for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) for MFF 2014-2020 is € 1.333 billion.

The EIDHR Regulation provides that the available funding will be allocated *inter alia* for 'supporting measures to facilitate peaceful conciliation between segments of societies, including support for confidence-building measures relating to human rights and democratisation' and 'promoting the peaceful outcome of electoral processes, the reduction of electoral violence and the acceptance of credible results by all segments of society'.

Conclusion

The references to peacebuilding and conflict prevention which are included in the abovementioned regulations provide the legal basis for the EU to support those activities in its external actions.

Whether or not it does so, depends largely on decisions made by those EU officials who are responsible for programming the assistance which is available under the various external financing instruments (e.g. priority areas in strategy papers and annual programmes, financial allocations etc.).

Click [here](#) to read the full-length version of version of EPLO Briefing Paper 1/2014: 'Support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the EU's external financing instruments 2014-2020.'