

2013 OVERVIEW

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office

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1 Mission Statement

The European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) is the platform of European NGOs, NGO networks, and think tanks which are committed to peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict.

EPLO's mission is to influence the EU to be more active and more effective at promoting peace and preventing violent conflict throughout the world.

EPLO aims to realise its mission by channelling civil society analysis into EU policy-making.

Its activities include:

- Analysis of EU policies
- Joint advocacy work (position papers, statements etc.)
- Facilitating dialogue between civil society peacebuilding organisations and EU policy-makers

EPLO's current policy objectives are:

1. To ensure that conflict prevention and peacebuilding are prominent within the policies and structures of EU external affairs.
2. To secure increased resources for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
3. To integrate peacebuilding into EU development policy, programmes and approaches.
4. To promote the inclusion of a meaningful gender perspective in EU policy, programming and implementation related to peace and security.
5. To promote peacebuilding in EU response to specific conflicts.
6. To ensure conflict sensitivity is included in the EU's trade policy and in EIB lending.

2 Highlights from 2013

The main highlights in 2013 were:

- Start of implementation of the EPLO Strategic Plan 2013-2015¹
- Launch of two new projects: The EU and Peacebuilding: From European Peace Project to Global Actor and Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action (See sections 9 and 10)
- Inclusion of two new member organisations: the Causeway Institute for Peace-building and Conflict Resolution and the Democratic Progress Institute (See Section 5.3)

¹ See http://www.eplo.org/assets/files/1.%20About%20us/About%20us/EPLO_Strategic_Plan_2013-2015.pdf

3 EPLO's Evolution 2009 – 2013

EPLO was established in 2001. Over the past five years, the organisation has grown significantly in terms of members, geographical coverage, activities, staff and budget.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Member Organisations	29	29	32	32	33
European countries covered (indirectly)²	13 (9)	13 (9)	14 (9)	15 (9)	14 (10)
Full-time staff members	5	5	6	7	8
Expenditure (€)	322,334	423,159	676,119	673,467	984,865

4 Working Methods

EPLO's policy work is led by a set of thematic working groups consisting of representatives of EPLO's member organisations. In 2013, EPLO had three standing working groups and six ad hoc groups. The main purpose of the groups is to develop common positions which EPLO can use in its advocacy work, including in conferences and seminars, and bilateral meetings with EU policy-makers and other relevant actors, and to provide information to EPLO member organisations on EU policy developments.³

In 2013, EPLO's thematic working groups were as follows:

Type of Group	Title of Group
Working Groups	1. Funding for Peace 2. Gender, Peace and Security 3. Peace, Development and Security
Ad Hoc Groups ⁴	1. EU Accession and Peacebuilding 2. EU-Africa Relations 3. EU Support for Peace Processes 4. European Investment, Bank, Trade and Conflict 5. Middle East and North Africa 6. Peacebuilding and EU Institutions and Policies

5 Governance⁵

5.1 General Assembly

The EPLO General Assembly meets twice a year and is EPLO's decision-making body. It is where constitutional decisions are taken by all member organisations, and where elections for the Steering Committee are held. The General Assembly decides on strategic multi-annual plans and the bi-annual work plans on the basis of proposals prepared by the Office and the Steering Committee. The General Assembly also decides on membership admission and the principle structure of the thematic working groups which develop EPLO's policy positions.

EPLO staff members report to the General Assembly on the results of EPLO's work and gather inputs from member organisations.

² Countries covered are those in which one or more EPLO member organisations are based. Countries covered indirectly are those in which members of EPLO member organisations are based.

³ See <http://www.eplo.org/policy-work.html>

⁴ Ad Hoc Groups focus on specific topics for a limited period of time.

⁵ See http://www.eplo.org/assets/files/1.%20About%20us/Decision-making/EPLO_Internal_Statutes_1003XX.pdf

In 2013, the General Assembly had meetings in May in Stockholm and in November in Brussels.

5.2 Steering Committee

The members of the EPLO Steering Committee are elected for two-year terms by a two-thirds majority of the votes of members present at the EPLO General Assembly and proxy votes.

Steering Committee members:

- are proposed by their organisation or another member
- are generally the EPLO representatives of that organisation and have the seniority to engage their organisation
- are elected in a personal capacity and on the understanding that they work in the interest of EPLO, independent of their professional commitments elsewhere
- contribute their professional experience on a voluntary basis and seek to represent the best interest of EPLO as a whole and of all its members⁶

In 2013, the Steering Committee had meetings in January, May, September and November.

Term	Members
November 2012 – May 2013	<p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiara Biscaldi (International Crisis Group) <p>Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aurélien Colson (ESSEC IRENÉ) <p>Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Gray (Saferworld) • Meeri-Maria Jaarva (Crisis Management Initiative) • Bente Knagenhjelm (Nansen Dialogue Network) • Sanne Tielemans (Conciliation Resources) • Bernardo Venturi (European Network for Civil Peace Services)⁷
May-November 2013	<p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeri-Maria Jaarva (Crisis Management Initiative) <p>Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aurélien Colson (ESSEC IRENÉ) <p>Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiara Biscaldi (International Crisis Group) • Simon Gray (Saferworld) • Colette Nkunda (Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation) • Sanne Tielemans (Conciliation Resources) • Bernardo Venturi (European Network for Civil Peace Services)
November 2013 – May 2014	<p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeri-Maria Jaarva (Crisis Management Initiative) <p>Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aurélien Colson (ESSEC IRENÉ) <p>Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiara Biscaldi (International Crisis Group) • Colette Nkunda (Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation) • Sonya Reines-Djivanides (Search for Common Ground) • Sanne Tielemans (Conciliation Resources) • Bernardo Venturi (European Network for Civil Peace Services)

⁶ See <http://www.eplo.org/steering-committee.html>

⁷ Bernardo Venturi is Director of the Civilian Defence Research Centre which is a member of the European Network for Civil Peace Services.

5.3 Member Organisations

EPLO's members are individual NGOs, networks of NGOs, and think tanks. At the end of 2013, EPLO had 32 member organisations based in 13 European countries (10 EU Member States plus Kosovo, Norway and Switzerland).

The following member organisations joined EPLO in 2013:

	Member Organisation
1.	Causeway Institute for Peace-building and Conflict Resolution ⁸
2.	Democratic Progress Institute ⁹

6 Publications

In 2013, EPLO published 15 policy papers, statements, discussion papers and other advocacy documents:¹⁰

	Title of Publication
1.	Power Analysis: The EU and Peacebuilding after Lisbon (2013 update)
2.	Policy paper on civilian CSDP
3.	Discussion Paper: The EU and the Comprehensive Approach
4.	EU support to peace mediation: Development and challenges
5.	Statement on the EEAS mid-term review: An opportunity to strengthen the EU's capacity to prevent conflict and build peace
6.	Reforming civilian CSDP
7.	Putting peace at the heart of the post-2015 framework
8.	UNSCR 1325 in Europe: 20 case studies of implementation
9.	Civil Society Dialogue Network Discussion Paper 1: Joining the dots from national to European level tools to implement UNSCR 1325
10.	Civil Society Dialogue Network Discussion Paper 2: The impact of EU trade agreements on conflict and peace
11.	Civil Society Dialogue Network Discussion Paper 3: National Dialogue Processes in Political Transitions
12.	Civil Society Dialogue Network Discussion Paper 4: Germany
13.	Civil Society Dialogue Network Discussion Paper 5: From Principles to Policies and Practices: How can the EU fulfil its Commitments linking Peacebuilding and Development?
14.	Civil Society Dialogue Network Discussion Paper 6: France
15.	Civil Society Dialogue Network Discussion Paper 7: Challenges and Opportunities of Inclusivity in Peace Processes

EPLO also published:

- 10 meeting reports and 11 sets of recommendations from meetings organised by EPLO
- nine Civil Society Dialogue Network discussion papers¹¹
- three issues of its internal newsletter and six issues of its external newsletter (EPLO Conflict Prevention Newsletter).¹²
- 22 other documents (some for internal use only)¹³

⁸ See <http://www.cipcr.org>

⁹ See <http://www.democraticprogress.org>

¹⁰ See <http://www.eplo.org/eplo-publications.html>

¹¹ See <http://www.eplo.org/discussion-papers.html>

¹² See <http://www.eplo.org/conflict-prevention-newsletter.html>

7 Meetings

In 2013, EPLO organised 42 events:

- 18 Brown Bag Lunch Events (See Section 8)
- 13 events in the framework of the Civil Society Dialogue Network project (See Section 9)
- Five events in the framework of the ‘The EU and Peacebuilding: From European Peace Project to Global Actor’ project (See Section 10)
- Three events in the framework of the ‘Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action’ project (See Section 11)
- Three other Member State Events (See Section 12)

In addition to the meetings which EPLO organised:

- EPLO staff members moderated and/or made presentations in 25 external events
- EPLO staff members participated in 29 external events
- EPLO staff members had more than 70 meetings with EU policy-makers¹⁴
- EPLO staff members had more than 80 meetings with representatives of other civil society organisations, officials from international organisations and various opinion-formers

8 Brown Bag Lunch Events

Since 2010, EPLO has organised regular lunchtime round-table discussions on a range of geographical and thematic issues relevant to the EU and its support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention.¹⁵

In 2013, EPLO organised 18 Brown Bag Lunch Events:

	Title of Event
1.	Civil society perspectives on the Gulf of Guinea
2.	Civil society promoting peace in the Korean Peninsula
3.	The missing narrative: Mali’s conflict refugees
4.	Adaptation to climate change: A matter of peace and security
5.	Power-sharing, conflict resolution and statebuilding: Legal and human rights dimensions
6.	Countering violent extremism: Experiences from Asia
7.	sustaining peace in Kenya beyond the elections
8.	Civil society engagement on conflict prevention and peacebuilding: Lessons from the Pacific
9.	Transitional justice and gender sensitivity: Challenges and opportunities
10.	Lessons from the peace process in Northern Ireland: Relevance and exportability through European peacebuilding initiatives
11.	Consolidating democracy in Côte d’Ivoire: Progress and perils
12.	Policy-makers and diaspora groups in the UK: Working for peace and development
13.	Gender and transitions in the MENA region
14.	How will this end? Transitional justice and prospects for peace in Afghanistan
15.	The EU’s role as global conflict manager: Nascent or nonsense?
16.	<i>Perspectives pour de meilleures relations sociales après le conflit armé au nord du Mali</i>
17.	Kashmir: Alternative paths to peace
18.	Transitional justice in pre- and non-transition contexts

¹³ Background papers for meetings organised by EPLO, briefing papers for external use, internal briefing notes, contributions to consultations, contributions to non-EPLO publications, suggestions for amendments to European Parliament reports, letters to EU policy-makers etc.

¹⁴ More information about these meetings is available on request from the EPLO office.

¹⁵ See <http://www.eplo.org/eplo-brown-bag-lunch-events.html>

9 Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a three-year project co-financed by the European Union (Instrument for Stability) and aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and EU policy-makers. The events which are organised in the framework of this project are open to all interested civil society actors and take place in Brussels, EU Member States and conflict-affected countries with EU presence. It is managed by EPLO, in co-operation with the European Commission and the European External Action Service.¹⁶

In 2013, EPLO organised 13 events in the framework of the Civil Society Dialogue Network project:

Type of Event ¹⁷	Title of Event
Policy Meetings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The EU's comprehensive approach to external action: Gathering civil society input 2. Expert workshop on monitoring the implementation of the EU Comprehensive Approach to UNSCR 1325 3. The UN Guidance for effective mediation: Translating the fundamentals into EU practice 4. Peace and Security in the Post-2015 Framework: What Role for Civil Society in influencing and implementing? 5. Strategic review of EUCAP Sahel Niger
Geographic Meetings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting Myanmar's evolving peace processes: What Roles for civil society and the EU? 2. <i>Mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération pour la RDC et la région, et stratégie de l'UE: quelles actions prioritaires?</i> 3. European Union–League of Arab States co-operation and the EU response to changes in the Arab region: Views from civil society 4. Guinea-Bissau: Peacebuilding responses to impunity and exclusiveness
Funding Instruments Meetings	The Instrument for Stability: Informal consultation on the Instrument for Stability 2014 programming
Member State Meetings	N/A
In-country Dialogue Meetings	N/A
Early Response Meetings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Iran: The Effectiveness of Sanctions? 2. Peacebuilding and Gang Violence: El Salvador's Truce Process
Training Seminars	The EU and Peacebuilding

10 Member State Advocacy

In 2013, EPLO increased its work at the Member State level, including through the project 'The EU and Peacebuilding: From European Peace Project to Global Actor' and funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.¹⁸

¹⁶ See <http://www.eplo.org/civil-society-dialogue-network.html>

¹⁷ See:

http://www.eplo.org/assets/files/2.%20Activities/Civil%20Society%20Dialogue%20Network/EPLO_CSDN_Overview.pdf

¹⁸ See <http://www.eplo.org/member-state-advocacy.html>

'The EU and Peacebuilding: From European Peace Project to Global Actor' is an 18-month project funded by the European Commission (Europe for Citizens Programme). Its aim is to engage a broad range of actors, including European citizens, European civil society organisations, academic institutions, research centres and think tanks, as well as national and EU-level decision-makers in a dialogue on the EU's role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and its history as a peace project.¹⁹

In 2013, EPLO organised eight events in EU Member States:

	Title of Event
1.	The EU and Peacebuilding: What role for the Netherlands? (The Hague, Netherlands)
2.	Bringing the experience of the Northern Ireland Peace Process into EU policy-making (Dublin, Ireland)
3.	Conflict prevention and the EU: What role for the UK? (London, UK)
4.	How can the EU contribute to peacebuilding in the Horn of Africa? (Stockholm, Sweden)
5.	Conflict Prevention, peacebuilding and the EU (Nicosia, Cyprus)
6.	<i>Quel avenir pour la politique de sécurité et de défense commune de l'Union européenne? L'approche française</i> (Paris, France)
7.	Mediation in context: Understanding the role of the EU (The Hague, Netherlands)
8.	What role for Germany in strengthening EU peacebuilding and civilian CSDP? (Berlin, Germany)

11 Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action

The project 'Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action' aims to contribute to the establishment, development and reinforcement of early warning mechanisms and increase opportunities for civil society to influence responses to conflict in a timely manner. In particular, through the provision of expert field-based conflict analysis, it aims to identify options for early action to allow the EU, its Member States and other regional and international actors the EU supports, to anticipate and respond to the risks of outbreak or recurrence of conflict in the action locations.

This three-year project started in July 2013. It is co-financed by the EU (Instrument for Stability) and managed by the International Crisis Group (ICG) and EPLO.²⁰

In 2013, EPLO organised three events in the framework of the 'Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action' project:

	Title of Event
1.	EU Briefing 2013
2.	Early Warning Watch List Briefing: Conflicts to Watch in 2014
3.	Early Warning Round-table: Decentralisation, representation and violence in Mali and Niger

¹⁹ See <http://www.eplo.org/the-eu-and-peacebuilding-from-european-peace-project-to-global-actor.html>

²⁰ See <http://www.eplo.org/strengthening-early-warning-and-mobilising-early-action.html>

12 Financial Information

12.1 Sources of Income²¹

In 2013, EPLO's income was derived from:

- Membership fees
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- European Commission – Instrument for Stability (Peacebuilding Partnership)
- European Commission – Europe for Citizens Programme

12.2 Fundraising

In 2013, EPLO continued to monitor funding opportunities and participated in one successful funding application as a partner.²²

12.3 Audit Report

EPLO's auditor has issued an unqualified opinion on EPLO's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2012. The result of the audit was published and declared to the Belgian authorities in 2013.²³

²¹ EPLO is included in the European Commission's Register of Interest Representatives.

See: <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/displaylobbyist.do?id=0878397912-17>

²² See <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&nbPubliList=50&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&searchtype=RS&aofr=133538>

²³ See http://www.eplo.org/assets/files/1.%20About%20us/Funding/DGST_Auditors_Report_EPLO_2013.pdf

13 Member Organisations

Berghof Foundation

www.berghof-foundation.org

Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities

www.genocideprevention.eu

Catholic Organization for Relief and Development (Cordaid)

www.cordaid.org

Causeway Institute for Peace-building and Conflict Resolution

www.cipcr.org

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre)

www.hdcentre.org

Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network (KATU)

www.katunet.fi

Conciliation Resources

www.c-r.org

Crisis Management Initiative

www.cmi.fi

Democratic Progress Institute

www.democraticprogress.org

Dialogue Advisory Group

www.dialogueadvisorygroup.org

ESSEC IRENÉ

<http://irene.essec.edu>

European Network for Civil Peace Services

www.en-cps.org

Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation

www.glencree.ie

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict

www.gppac.net

International Alert

www.international-alert.org

International Center for Transitional Justice

www.ictj.org

International Crisis Group

www.crisisgroup.org

Interpeace

www.interpeace.org

Kosovar Center for Security Studies

www.qkss.org

Kvinna till Kvinna

www.kvinnatillkvinna.org

Life & Peace Institute

www.life-peace.org

Nansen Dialogue Network

www.nansen-dialogue.net

NGO Support Center

www.ngo-sc.org

Nonviolent Peaceforce

www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org

Oxfam International

www.oxfam.org

Partners for Democratic Change International

www.pdci-network.org

Pax Christi International

www.paxchristi.net

Quaker Council for European Affairs

www.qcea.org

Saferworld

www.saferworld.org.uk

Search for Common Ground

www.sfcg.org

swisspeace

www.swisspeace.ch

World Vision International

www.wvi.org