



EPLO CONFLICT PREVENTION NEWSLETTER



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EU IN THE WORLD UPDATE

Spanish EU Presidency: On 1 January 2010, Spain took over the rotating presidency of the EU. The Spanish EU Presidency is the first to take place under the new institutional arrangements introduced by the Lisbon Treaty, including the creation of the posts of Permanent President of the European Council and High Representative (HR) of the Union for Foreign and Security and Policy.

According to the work programme which was presented in December 2009, priorities for the Spanish Presidency include: gender equality and the fight against domestic violence; finding a way out of the economic crisis; energy security and the fight against climate change; and enabling Europe to speak with a united voice on the international scene and to promote its common values, peace and well-being.

For the full Spanish Presidency programme, please click [here](#).



FAC & GAC: The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) met on 25 January in Brussels. It was the first meeting of the new Council configuration to be chaired by the EU HR, Catherine Ashton. (For more information on EU institutional changes, please see the previous Conflict Prevention Newsletter, available [here](#).)

The Council discussed the coordination of the Union's overall response to the earthquake in Haiti and agreed to send at least 300 police personnel to provide a temporary reinforcement of the police capability of the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

The Council also agreed to set up a military mission in Uganda to contribute to the training of Somali security forces.

In addition, the Council discussed the situation in Afghanistan and adopted conclusions on Yemen.

Finally, the Council adopted conclusions on the European court of Auditors' *Special*

Report No 12/2009 concerning the effectiveness of the Commission-managed EU assistance in the Western Balkans.

Please click [here](#) to download the FAC conclusions and click [here](#) for the GAC conclusions.

CSDP missions: As part of the institutional changes set out in the Lisbon Treaty the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) is now called the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

During its January meeting, the FAC adopted conclusions on the future of the EU's military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR Althea). In this context, the Council expressed the EU's readiness, if necessary, to maintain an executive military role beyond 2010 under a UN mandate.

On 13 December 2009, Rear Admiral Giovanni Gumiero (Italy) succeeded Commodore Pieter Bindt (Netherlands) as the new EU Force Commander for EUNAVFOR Somalia / Operation ATALANTA. On 1 January 2010, Colonel Francisco Díaz Alcantud, succeeded Mr Stephen White (United Kingdom) as head of the EU's integrated rule of law mission in Iraq (EUJUST LEX) while Mr Henrik Malmquist, (Sweden) succeeded Paul Robert Kernaghan (United Kingdom) as head of the EU's police mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS).

For more information about CSDP missions, please contact [Ben](#).

European Parliament: The European Parliament (EP) had plenary sessions on 14 – 17 December and 18 – 21 January in Strasbourg. During these two part-sessions, MEPs adopted resolutions on violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, on the second revision of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement (the Cotonou Agreement) and on recent human rights abuses in the Philippines.

In December, the EP also completed its second reading of the draft 2010 EU **budget**. MEPs adopted the EPLO-proposed amendment for a pilot project 'Programme for NGO-led peacebuilding activities' and allocated € 1 million to it.

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In January, the EP conducted its hearings of the **Commissioners-designate** for the Barroso II Commission. Prior to the hearings, EPLO and the organisers of the 'Europe, Vote for Peace!' campaign had sent questions on the issues of peacebuilding and conflict prevention to various MEPs from the Foreign Affairs and Development committees. MEPs addressed questions on peacebuilding and conflict prevention to Catherine Ashton, Vice-President designate / HR, and Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner-designate for Development during their respective hearings. The EP has voted overwhelmingly in favour of the new team of European commissioners on 9 February.

On Monday 25 January, the President of EPLO member, International Crisis Group, Louise Arbour, had a formal meeting with EP President, Jerzy Buzek.

For more information about events in the European Parliament, please contact [Ben](#).

WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EPLO?

For more information about upcoming events and recent publications, please visit www.eplo.org.

BLOG!

EPLO now has a blog: eploblog.wordpress.com.

NEED HELP?

Do you have any questions about the EU and peacebuilding? Feel free to contact the EPLO Helpdesk ([Sanne](#))!



EPLO Office



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EU-AFRICA

JOINT AFRICA-EU STRATEGY

In December 2007, heads of state and government from EU and African states adopted the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), including a first Action Plan (2008 – 2010) embedded in eight partnerships.

The four main objectives of the JAES are:

- Improving the Africa-EU political partnership;
- Promoting:
 - peace, security, democratic governance and human rights;
 - basic freedoms, gender equality;
 - sustainable economic development, including industrialisation;
 - regional and continental integration; and
 - ensuring that all the Millennium Development Goals are met in all African countries by 2015;
- Effective multilateralism; and
- A people-centered partnership.

The JAES contains several innovations which distinguish it from the 2005 EU Strategy for Africa.

Firstly, the JAES is a *jointly* agreed strategy between Africa and the EU based on the principle of partnership of equals. Secondly, Africa is treated as a single continent for the first time. Thirdly, the JAES goes beyond traditional development issues looking at *inter alia*, peace and security; and energy and climate change. Fourthly, it is designed to provide the

opportunity to a wide range of African and European stakeholders, including non-state actors, to participate in its implementation on an ongoing basis. The complex institutional architecture of the JAES consists of multi-level meetings, including Africa-EU summits, ministerial meetings and commission-to-commission meetings.

The Action Plan (2008 – 2010) covering the eight partnerships attached to the JAES are designed to produce concrete and measurable actions to be implemented jointly by the EU and African states by 2010. Joint Expert Groups (JEGs) have been established for each partnership. JEGs include representatives from AU and EU member states and civil society organisations (CSOs).

To date, implementation of the JAES has been problematic and results have varied between partnerships. The current Action Plan is due to end at the next Africa-EU summit and discussions about a possible second action plan are currently ongoing. These discussions are focused on possible modifications to content and structure, on the continuation of the eight partnerships in the current form or otherwise, and on improving the involvement of EU and AU member states and CSOs in the implementation of the JAES. In addition, discussions are also taking place regarding the institutional architecture, in particular how to increase the efficiency of the JEGs.

For more information please visit the JAES [website](#) or contact [Chiara](#).

EU-AFRICA (CONT.)

FUNDING

ACP-EC Partnership Agreement (Cotonou Agreement): The EU's co-operation with developing countries in Africa, and Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions is based on the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement which was signed in June 2000 in the Beninese capital, Cotonou, and revised in 2005.

Article 1 of the Cotonou Agreement lists contributing to peace and security as an objective of the ACP-EC Partnership. Similarly, Article 11 of the Agreement provides that: 'The Parties shall pursue an active, comprehensive and integrated policy of peace building and conflict prevention and resolution within the framework of the Partnership.' It also provides that activities in these areas will include: 'support for an active and organised civil society.'

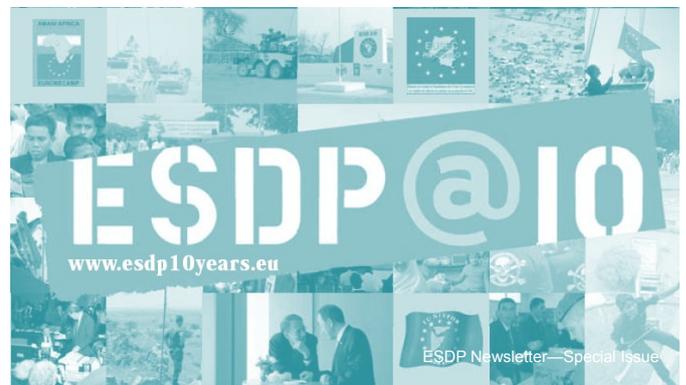
EC assistance for development co-operation under the Cotonou Agreement is mainly channelled via the European Development Fund (EDF). The tenth EDF (EDF 10), which covers the period 2008 to 2013 has been allocated € 22.7 billion to finance actions in the following areas: human rights and governance; peace and security; economic growth, regional integration and trade; and human and social development.

Other instruments: In addition to the EDF, the EC provides assistance to countries in Africa via its various external financing instruments, including the Instrument for Stability, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and the various thematic programmes under the Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI). All three of these instruments include support for civil society organisations.

African Peace Facility: In December 2003, the ACP-EC Council of Ministers agreed to the creation of a "Peace Facility for Africa" (APF) with an initial budget of € 250 million for three years. This financing scheme has been set up by the EU 'to strengthen the ability of the African Union to engage in peace support and peacekeeping operations in Africa'. In April 2006, the Council agreed to continue the APF for the period 2008 – 2010 with a budget of € 300 million from EDF 10.

To date, APF funds have been used for the operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the Africa-EU dialogue; enabling the African Union and African sub-regional organisations to plan and conduct peace support operations; and to finance preparatory stages of peace support operations or initial steps of mediation processes.

For more information about any of the abovementioned instruments etc., please contact [Ben](#).



CSDP

The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), formerly known as the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), was launched at the Cologne European Council summit in June 1999. The CSDP aims for the EU to develop its civilian and military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention.

No less than ten out of the 27 CSDP missions which have been launched to date have taken place in Africa. Completed missions include the EU's military missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Chad / Central African Republic, and the EU's civilian-military support action to support the AU's mission in Darfur. At present, the EU has four CSDP missions in Africa, including a police mission in the DRC, a security sector reform mission in Guinea Bissau and the EU's first naval mission to tackle piracy off the coast of Somalia. In January 2010, the EU's Foreign Affairs Council agreed to the deployment of a military mission to contribute to the training of Somali security forces.

For more information about CSDP missions, please contact [Ben](#).

EU DOCUMENTS

CFSP / High Representative / Presidency

- 5 February—[Decision](#) on EU military mission to contribute to the training of Somali Security Forces
 29 January – [Statement](#) by the High Representative on the Presidential elections in Sri Lanka
 27 January – [Declaration](#) by the HR on behalf of the EU on Honduras: inauguration Mr Porfirio Lobo
 13 January – [Declaration](#) by the HR on the 5th anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan on 9 January 2005
 21 December – [Press Release](#) from the 11th meeting of the EU-Republic of Moldova Cooperation Council
 21 December – [Declaration](#) by the Presidency on the recent killings in Honduras
 21 December – [Declaration](#) by the Presidency on freedom of expression in Ethiopia
 18 December – [Declaration](#) by the Presidency on Israeli decision regarding settlements
 18 December – [Declaration](#) by the Presidency on the adoption of Security Council resolution 1904 (2009)
 15 December – [Declaration](#) by the Presidency on "presidential elections" in Abkhazia, Georgia, 12 December
 11 December – [Declaration](#) by the Presidency on the general elections in Bolivia

European Commission

15 December – [Proposal](#) for a Council Regulation temporarily withdrawing the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance provided for under Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008 with respect to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

European Parliament

20 January – European Parliament resolution on the second revision of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement (the "Cotonou Agreement")
 17 December – European Parliament resolution on violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo

European Court of Auditors

13 January – Special Report No 15/2009: EU assistance implemented through United Nations organisations: decision-making and monitoring.

EU AGENDA

Council of the EU: The next meeting of the European Council will take place on 25 – 26 March in Brussels.

For more information, please visit the [website](#) of the Spanish Presidency.

The next meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council will take place on 22 February in Brussels. The following Council committees and working parties will also meet in February and March:

- **Political and Security Committee:** 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 17, 23 and 26 February; 2, 5, 9, 16, 17, 23 and 30 March
- **Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management:** 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22 and 24 February; 1, 3, 10, 15 and 17 March
- **Working Party on Development Co-operation:** 3, 15 and 25 February; 1, 4, 8, 11, 15 and 18 March
- **Africa Working Party:** 3, 10, 17, 22 and 24 February; 3, 10 and 17 March
- **Working Party on Human Rights:** 9, 10, 18 and 19 February; 11 and 12 March

European Parliament: The next European Parliament plenary session will take place from 8 –12 February in Strasbourg. There will also be a mini-plenary session on 24 – 25 February in Brussels. The following (sub-)committees will also meet in February and March:

- **Foreign Affairs:** 4, 23 February; 16-17, 22-23 March
- **Development:** 3, 4 and 22 February; 4 and 16-17 March
- **Security and Defence:** 4 and 17-18 March
- **Human Rights:** 22 February; 4 and 17-18 March
- **Women's Rights and Gender Equality:** 23 February and 15-16 March

You can find more information about what is currently happening in Brussels on the [EPLO website](#)

INITIATIVE FOR PEACEBUILDING

Recent Publications:

SSR and Donor Assistance in Serbia, 2000-2010, by Dr Amadeo Watkins, ELIAMEP, January 2010. Click [here](#).

Upcoming Events:

IfP workshop "**Improving democratic governance and state-society relations**", organised by FRIDE, International Alert and Clingendael with the support of the EC. (Brussels, 17 February). For more information contact [Karin Björk](#).

Recent Events:

IfP Gender Cluster roundtable, organised by EPLO and International Alert, on developing indicators for the EU's Comprehensive Approach to the implementation of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820. (Brussels, 4 December 2009). For more information, please contact: [Minna Lyytikäinen](#) from International Alert or [Sanne Tielemans](#) from EPLO. (A report will be available [here](#) shortly.)



INITIATIVE FOR PEACEBUILDING

The IfP is a consortium led by International Alert and funded by the EC. It draws together the expertise of 10 civil society organisations and their networks to develop and promote international knowledge and expertise in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. For more information about the IfP, please contact: [Lucia Montanaro](#).

More information on
www.initiativeforpeacebuilding.eu

EPLO MEMBERS' NEWS, PUBLICATIONS & TRAINING COURSES

Jobs and Internships:

International Alert: [Senior Training Officer: Conflict Sensitivity](#)

International Center for Transitional Justice: [Office / Finance Manager](#), [Programme Associate](#), [Internships](#)

International Crisis Group: [Project Director, Colombia / Andes](#), [Fundraising Officer](#), [Senior Analyst, Guatemala](#), [Senior Analyst, Gulf States](#), [Senior Analyst, North Africa](#)

Nonviolent Peaceforce: [Country Director, Sudan](#)

Search for Common Ground: [International Development Programme Assistant](#), [Programme Associate, Sub-Saharan Africa](#), [Country Director, Timor-Leste](#), [Internships](#)

For more job and internship information, please visit our [website](#).

Publications and News:

Berghof

- **Mediating Identity Conflicts—Potential and Challenges of Engaging with Hamas**, by Carolin Goerzig. Click [here](#).

CITpax

- **Israel and NATO: Between Membership and Partnership**, by Shlomo Ben-Ami in The Daily Star. 11 January 2010. Click [here](#).
- Second Report of the International Observatory on the **DDR Process and the Implementation of the Justice and Peace Law** (Spanish). November 2009. Click [here](#).

Conciliation Resources

- **New set of policy briefs** on strategies for supporting and strengthening peace processes. Click [here](#).
- **Accord 21: Whose peace is it anyway? Connecting Somali and International Peacemaking**. Click [here](#).

International Alert / FRIDE

- Click [here](#) for the latest **Alert News**.
- **The Kosovo Statebuilding Conundrum: Addressing Fragility in a Contested State**, by Lucia Montanaro. International Alert / FRIDE. December 2009. Click [here](#).

International Center for Transitional Justice

- ICTJ will have a new president, **David Tolbert**, from March 2010. For more information, please click [here](#).
- **Transitions**. January 2010. Click [here](#).

International Crisis Group

- **CrisisWatch No. 77**. 4 January 2010. Click [here](#).

Life & Peace Institute

- **New Routes: Pilfering the peace: The nexus between corruption and peacebuilding**. No. 3-4, 2009. Click [here](#).

Nansen

- A new **Nansen Dialogue Centre** was opened in Srebrenica on 27 November 2009. For more information, please click [here](#).

Nonviolent Peaceforce

- **NP Europe Newsletter**, Fall 2009. Click [here](#).

QCEA

- **The Nabucco Gas Pipeline: A chance for the EU to push for change in Turkmenistan**, by Neil Endicott. December 2009. Click [here](#).

Search for Common Ground

- Click [here](#) for the latest **Common Ground News Service**.

Swisspeace

- **KOFF Newsletter No. 84**. 1 February 2009. Click [here](#).

World Vision

- **The World Vision 2010 Peace Prize nomination submission deadline is quickly approaching**. Deadline: 1 March 2010. For more information, please click [here](#).

Training Courses and Fellowship Programmes:

Swisspeace: For more information on the 2010 Peace Mediation Course organised by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Mediation Support Project (Swisspeace / KOFF, ETH Zurich), please click [here](#).

EN.CPS-ASPR: In Spring 2010, there will be a new IPT core course (7 – 20 March) and a specialisation course on human rights (21 March – 2 April). For further information, please contact [ASPR](#) or visit their [website](#).

EN.CPS-PATRIR / International Peace and Development Training Center (IPDTC): IPDTC is launching its 2010 training calendar with a range of programmes addressing the core skills, knowledge and experience of practitioners working in the fields of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, development, and other related areas. From 17 - 21 May 2010, IPTDC will organise a course entitled 'Advanced Mediation and Peacemaking' programme. For more information, please contact [PATRIR](#) or visit the IPDTC [website](#).

EPLO MEMBERS

Berghof Research Center for
Constructive Conflict
Management

Civil Society Conflict Prevention
Network—KATU

Conciliation Resources

Crisis Management Initiative—
CMI

European Network for Civil
Peace Services—EN.CPS

European Centre for Conflict
Prevention—ECCP

ESSEC Iréné

Fundación para las Relaciones
Internacionales y el Diálogo
Exterior—FRIDE

Glencree Centre for Peace and
Reconciliation

International Alert

International Center for
Transitional Justice—ICTJ

International Crisis Group

Interpeace

Kvinna till Kvinna

Life and Peace Institute

Nansen Dialogue Network

NGO Support Centre

Nonviolent Peaceforce

Partners for Democratic Change
International—PDCI

Pax Christi International

Quaker Council for European
Affairs—QCEA

Saferworld

Search for Common Ground

Swisspeace

Toledo International Centre for
Peace—CITpax

World Vision

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THE EUROPEAN PEACEBUILDING LIAISON OFFICE — EPLO

EPLO is the platform of European NGOs, networks of NGOs and think tanks active in the field of peacebuilding, who share an interest in promoting sustainable peacebuilding policies among decision-makers in the European Union.

EPLO aims to influence the EU so it promotes and implements measures that lead to sustainable peace between states and within states and peoples, and that transform and resolve conflicts non-violently. EPLO wants the EU to recognise the crucial connection between peacebuilding, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development worldwide and the crucial role NGOs have to play in sustainable EU efforts for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and crisis management.

EPLO advances the interests of its members through common policy positions and consequently advocating for those common positions. EPLO disseminates information and promotes understanding of EU policies of concern to its Members. The Office also builds solidarity and co-operation amongst its members and with other relevant NGO networks.

Finally, EPLO raises awareness about the contribution the EU should make to peacebuilding and the need to hold the EU accountable to its own political commitments of helping secure peace within and outside its borders.

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