



EPLO CONFLICT PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

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EU IN THE WORLD UPDATE

FAC & GAC: The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) met on 22 March in Brussels. Foreign ministers adopted a declaration on freedom of access to information in Iran and established an EU position ahead of the international donors' conference 'Towards a New Future for Haiti' on 31 March in New York. They also discussed the Middle East Peace Process in the presence of the International Quartet Envoy, Tony Blair, as well as developments in Afghanistan and the EU's continued engagement there on the basis of the 2009 *Action Plan for Enhanced Engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan*.

The FAC also appointed former Lithuanian foreign minister Vygaudas Ušackas as the new EU special representative (EUSR) for Afghanistan from 1 April until 31 August 2010 or until the entry into force of the decision establishing the European External Action Service (EEAS). Mr Ušackas will also head the EU Delegation in Kabul.

In a joint session with the General Affairs Council (GAC), ministers discussed the organisation and functioning of the future EEAS.

Click [here](#) to download the FAC conclusions and [here](#) to download the GAC conclusions.

European Council: The spring meeting of the European Council took place on 25 and 26 March in Brussels. EU heads of state and government adopted conclusions on refocusing the EU's efforts on tackling climate change following the Copenhagen summit.

Click [here](#) to download the European Council conclusions.

High Representative: From 14-18 March, EU High Representative (HR) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, was on an official visit to Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Territories. (For more information, see the 'EU Documents' section on p. 4).

On 10 March, HR Ashton participated in the European Parliament's plenary debate on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and, on 23 March, she participated in an exchange of views with the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs on the establishment of the EEAS and on

the outcome of the March FAC meeting. (Click [here](#) to watch a recording of that meeting).

Finally, on 25 March, HR Ashton published her long-awaited [proposal](#) for the establishment of the EEAS.

CSDP missions: On 11 March, the Council's press department launched its new weekly e-newsletter: *EU Security and Defence news*. According to a Council press release, the purpose of the new publication is to provide 'a weekly update on developments under the EU in the field of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as well as highlights on broader security related EU activities.' Click [here](#) to download *EU Security and Defence news*.

On 31 March, the Council of the EU adopted a decision on the launch of the EU's military mission to contribute to the training of Somali security forces (EUTM Somalia). On the basis of this decision, EUTM Somalia is expected to be launched on 7 April.

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

European Parliament: The European Parliament had a full plenary session on 8-11 March in Strasbourg plus a mini-plenary session on 24 and 25 March in Brussels. MEPs adopted resolutions on the implementation of the Goldstone recommendations on Israel/Palestine, the 2008 annual report on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the implementation of the European Security Strategy and the CSDP, and the Non-proliferation Treaty. (For more information, see the 'EU Documents' section on p. 4).

On 18 March, the Executive Director of EPLO, Catherine Woollard, gave a presentation on the EEAS and its implications for the future of EU peacebuilding and conflict prevention activities at a public hearing in the European Parliament on the prevention of mass human rights abuses / mass atrocities. (Click [here](#) to watch a recording of the public hearing.)

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

EU REFORMS

THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

By Catherine Woollard, Executive Director EPLO

After years of stalling and setbacks, the Lisbon Treaty has come into effect. One of the most interesting provisions of the Treaty is the creation of the European External Action Service (EEAS), a foreign service for the EU. Catherine Ashton, the EU's High Representative for the Foreign and Security Policy, is currently working on her proposal on the EEAS which is scheduled to be adopted by the Council by the end of April 2010. In carrying out this task, she is supported by a team of 14 representatives from the European Commission, EU Member States, the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU and the European Parliament.

The EEAS is an opportunity to radically improve the EU's response to conflict. It should not be a paler version of a traditional diplomatic service; rather it could be a new type of normative international foreign policy actor. There is a risk, however, that the EEAS exacerbates the very problems that the Lisbon Treaty is supposed to overcome by adding to the proliferation of European agencies active on foreign affairs.

The EU has values that should be the basis for its foreign policy. The Lisbon Treaty reiterates this, stating that the EU's aims are to 'promote peace, its values and the well-being of its peoples' and to 'preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security'. These, and existing commitments on peacebuilding and conflict prevention, should be the guiding principles for the EEAS. In EU policy-making, structures are as important as policy and peacebuilding needs to have adequate status within the EEAS.

EPLO advocates for a Directorate General for Peacebuilding and Crisis Management reporting to High Representative Ashton. The Directorate General could include a Peacebuilding Directorate, the Crisis Management Planning Directorate (CMPD), a mediation support cell, gender and human rights experts; and responsibility for liaising with Member States and international bodies. It should have the status and capacity to ensure that peacebuilding informs all EU action by advising on the integration of principles of conflict sensitivity into policies where a negative impact on conflict is likely such as trade, energy, agriculture, and development. If the EEAS has geographical units, each one should include high-level conflict and human rights advisors.

The separation of responsibilities for the EU's foreign policy between the Commission and the Council has led to confusion, competition and duplication. To overcome these problems, as many as possible of the existing structures should be brought into the EEAS so that the EU can take an integrated approach to conflict. There is ample evidence from the peacebuilding sector that supports a "whole-of-government" (or "whole-of-EU") approach to conflict.

In the model of coordination which currently applies, institutions act separately but "coordinate", usually involving sharing information about what they do – a time-consuming and inefficient approach. At the very least, an integrated approach could be taken towards fragile and conflict-affected situations. Thus, the EU's relationship with a group of 30 or 40 of the most fragile, conflict-affected countries should be the responsibility of the EEAS, where all policies – development, crisis management, peacebuilding – should fall under its remit.

Opposition to this maximalist version of the EEAS comes from officials fighting for "their" services to remain outside the EEAS and also from some within the development sector who argue for development policy to be outside the EEAS. If development were to be incorporated, then safeguards need to be in place

to ensure that development assistance is not misused to pursue security objectives. But these safeguards exist – in the form of the OECD DAC guidelines on eligible uses of official development assistance.

A plan for civilian-military integration has also taken shape. Previously, the EU had two separate units responsible for planning civilian and military Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions respectively. They have been brought together into the CMPD which will be responsible for the strategic planning of all missions and be part of the EEAS. EPLO is concerned that the CMPD does not have sufficient civilian expertise. Of the EU's ongoing CSDP missions, eleven are civilian and two are military, yet the Director and Deputy Director of the CMPD have only limited experience of civilian crisis management and the vast majority of staff members have military backgrounds, with limited experience of civilian crisis management.

Strategic planning for civilian missions requires experience of the civilian crisis response areas which are priorities for the EU, i.e. strengthening police, the rule of law, civilian administration and civil protection. The EU urgently needs to increase its civilian resources, given existing commitments and ambitions, focusing on identifying, recruiting, training and deploying police officers, public administrators, lawyers and judges.

Militarisation of CSDP would be unfortunate because the EU's comparative advantage is in civilian response. Public opinion surveys show that EU citizens support EU action on conflict, but they support civilian and not military action. Overall, civilian means are more effective – and more cost-effective – at building lasting peace.

EPLO brings civil society's expertise into EU policy-making, using the experience and knowledge of its members to inform EU policy. Currently, only three percent of the Commission's funds for peacebuilding and conflict prevention go to civil society, yet civil society has a crucial role to play. For example, if the EU does not support local people to hold their governments to account, it is hard to see how it will be able to eventually withdraw from conflict-affected countries. Similarly, EU citizens want to play a role in monitoring the EU's external actions.

The EEAS should consult civil society regularly, with, for example, an annual peacebuilding dialogue and working groups bringing together officials and CSO experts. It should contract civil society to implement part of its work, including managing projects in fragile contexts. Delegations in third countries should, similarly, co-operate with local civil society.

The EEAS would benefit from integrating people with specific expertise in institutional design and organisational change management as well as officials from different EU institutions and Member State diplomatic services. It will also need mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and evaluation against its key aims, including promoting peace. The EEAS will prove its value if it establishes itself as a norm-driven institution, transcending competing national interests, promoting European values, and taking as its guiding principles the EU's manifold commitments on protecting human rights, promoting democracy, preventing conflict and building peace.

EU REFORMS (CONT.)

EPLO ROUNDTABLE ON THE EEAS

The second EPLO roundtable on the EEAS took place on 8 February at the Instituto Cervantes in Brussels. This meeting, which was a follow up to the roundtable which EPLO organised in September 2009 (see EPO Conflict Prevention Newsletter Volume 4 Issue 8), brought together approximately 60 representatives from the EU institutions, EU Member States, UN agencies, think tanks, academia and peacebuilding, development and human rights NGOs.

Participants were welcomed by Mr Francisco Ferrero, Director of the Instituto Cervantes, and opening remarks came from Director-General of Toledo Citpax and EPLO President, Ambassador Emilio Cassinello Aubán. The roundtable was moderated by Dr Antje Herrberg (CMI).

The first panel consisted of Graham Avery, Senior Adviser at the European Policy Centre; Alain Délétoz, Vice-President (Europe) of the International Crisis Group; Mika-Markus Leinonen from the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU; and Prof. Dr Eva Gross, Senior Research Fellow for European Foreign and Security Policy at the Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel. They addressed the theme of peacebuilding and conflict prevention within the EEAS, examining both its purpose and structure. Catriona Gourlay, Project Manager and Marie Curie Fellow at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research; and Nicolas Rougy, Director of the Brussels Office of the Club of Madrid, responded to the speakers' introductory remarks.

The second panel consisted of Ambassador Ann-Marie Bolin Pennegard, Sweden's representative to the Council of the EU's Committee for the Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management; Dr Mary Martin, Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Global Governance, London School of Economics; and Martina Weitsch, Joint Representative of the Quaker Council for European Affairs and EPLO Vice-President. They analysed the role of civil society in promoting peace and ensuring the impact and accountability of the EEAS. Dr Eleanor O' Gorman, Research Associate at the Centre for International Studies, University of Cambridge; Dr Natalia Mirmanova, independent peacebuilding consultant; Dr Nicholas Whyte, Head of the Brussels Office of Independent Diplomacy; and Emmanuel Vivet, Researcher at ESSEC Iréné and former chair of the Council of the EU's Asia-Oceania Working Party, all responded to the introductory comments.

Catherine Woollard, Executive Director of EPLO, concluded the roundtable with a summary of the main points:

- The EEAS can and should be the vehicle for an ethical EU foreign policy, focusing values and on the needs and rights of people in third countries rather than on the interests of the EU and its Member States.
- The EEAS should have a distinct ethos and branding which reflects the EU's unique role as an international actor.
- The development of a European diplomatic culture is a key challenge for the proper functioning of the EEAS. The creation of a virtual "EU Diplomatic Academy" could be one way of responding to this challenge.
- In order to meet the Lisbon Treaty ambitions of increasing coherence within the EU institutions and between those institutions and the EU Member States, and enhancing consistency between pillar one (Community) and pillar two (CFSP) policies, the EEAS should bring together as many as possible of the directorates general with responsibilities for the EU's external policies.
- Peacebuilding needs to have adequate status within the EEAS so that it guides the EU's strategy in external policies. A Director General for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention reporting to the High Representative should be appointed within the EEAS.
- The EU should strengthen its civilian response to conflict. An appropriate balance between civilian and military expertise should be ensured in the Crisis Management Planning Directorate (CMPD) and measures should be put in place to identify, recruit, train and deploy the necessary civilian experts.
- As far as possible, the EU's actions should be decided on in-country and/or at regional level. This would require stronger in-country leadership teams and the transfer of policy-making and implementation to the local level where the EU is operating.
- The EEAS should be defined by a culture of risk taking, initiative, and creativity.
- The EEAS should engage with civil society, including through regular dialogue, regular exchanges of views and bringing in the expertise of international, European, and local NGOs to inform its own processes. This dialogue should serve not only to keep civil society informed of the EEAS' activities but also to ensure that civil society perspectives feed into planning processes.
- Civil society has an important role to play in helping the EU to create its own vision of its role as a global actor.

See also: [EPLO's statement on the EEAS \(January 2010\)](#) and [EPLO's policy paper on the EEAS \(October 2009\)](#)

EPLO Office

Catherine Woollard: Executive Director
Chiara Biscaldi: Policy Officer
Benjamin Moore: Policy Officer
Sanne Tielemans: Policy Officer
Najoua Sbai: Administrative Officer

WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EPLO?

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

BLOG!

EPLO has a blog: <http://eploblog.wordpress.com>

NEED HELP?

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



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EU DOCUMENTS

CFSP / High Representative (HR) / President of the European Council

- 31 March – [Joint statement](#) by HR Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on the Serbian Declaration on Srebrenica
- 29 March – [Press release](#): Council prolongs appropriate measures for Fiji Islands
- 27 March – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on agreement between the United States and Russia on a new strategic arms reduction treaty (START)
- 26 March – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court by Bangladesh
- 26 March – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the violence in and around Gaza
- 25 March – [Final communiqué](#): EU-CARIFORUM Meeting on Political Dialogue
- 24 March – [Declaration](#) by HR Ashton on the decision by the Israeli authorities on the Shepherd Hotel
- 23 March – [Press communiqué](#): EU-IGAD Political Dialogue Meeting
- 19 March – [Press release](#): Second revision of the Cotonou Agreement initialled
- 18 March – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on Sahel region
- 16 March – [Statement](#) to the press by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, after his meeting with Nika Gilauri, Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia
- 15 March – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the Agreement between the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a
- 15 March – [Speech](#) by HR Ashton at the League of Arab States, Cairo, 15 March 2010
- 10 March – [Declaration](#) by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on the Georgian strategy on Abkhazia and South Ossetia
- 10 March – [Declaration](#) by HR Ashton on the Government of Israel's decision to build new housing units in East Jerusalem
- 10 March – [Address](#) by HR Ashton at the Joint Debate on Foreign and Security Policy - European Parliament Plenary, Strasbourg, 10 March
- 7 March – [Joint statement](#): European Union-Morocco Summit – Granada, 7 March 2010
- 2 March – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on Côte d'Ivoire
- 1 March – [Press release](#): EU implements international restrictive measures against Eritrea
- 1 March – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton, on Nigeria

Council

- 25 March – [Proposal](#) for a Council decision establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service

Commission

- 4 March – [Report](#) from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Operations carried out under the EIB external mandate in 2008
- 3 March – [Proposal](#) for a Council regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2007-2013
- 3 March – [Proposal](#) for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities

Parliament

- 26 March – European Parliament [recommendation](#) to the Council on the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
- 25 March – European Parliament [resolution](#) on priorities for the 2011 budget – Section III – Commission
- 11 March – European Parliament [resolution](#) on the escalation of violence in Mexico
- 10 March – European Parliament [resolution](#) on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- 10 March – European Parliament [resolution](#) on the implementation of the European Security Strategy and the CSDP
- 10 March – European Parliament [resolution](#) on the annual report from the Council to the European Parliament on the main aspects and basic choices of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) in 2008
- 10 March – European Parliament [resolution](#) on implementation of the Goldstone recommendations on Israel/Palestine

EU AGENDA

Council of the EU: The next meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council and the General Affairs Council will take place on 27 April in Luxembourg. The following Council committees and working parties will also meet in April:

Political and Security Committee: 9, 13, 16, 19, 20, 27 and 30 April

Committee for the Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management: 12, 14, 15, 15, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28 and 30 April

Working Party on Development Co-operation: 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26 and 29 April

Africa Working Party: 21, 23 and 28 April

Working Party on Human Rights: 12 and 13 April

European Parliament: The next full plenary session will take place from 19-22 April in Strasbourg. The following (sub-) committees will also meet in April:

Foreign Affairs: 7-8 and 27-28 April

Development: 12 and 26-27 April

Security and Defence: 26-27 April

Human Rights: 7 and 26-27 April

Women's Rights and Gender Equality: 7 April

You can find more information about upcoming EU events via the [EPLO website](#).

INITIATIVE FOR PEACEBUILDING

Recent Publications:

- **Peacebuilding across Lake Albert: Reinforcing Environmental Cooperation between Uganda and the DRC**, by Meike Westerkamp and Annabelle Houdret. Available [here](#) soon.
- **SSR and Donor Assistance in Serbia, 2000-2010**, by Dr Amadeo Watkins, ELIAMEP, January 2010. Click [here](#).

Recent Events:

- **Civil society meeting on Women, Peace and Security: Indicators for the European Union**, co-organised by International Alert and EPLO. Brussels, 24 March. More information available [here](#) soon.
- **Conference on SSR and Donor Assistance in Serbia**, Belgrade, 2 February 2010. Click [here](#).

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:

Conciliation Resources: [Communications Manager](#), London.

EN.CPS—PATRIR: Internship - International Research Project 'Searching for Peace in Iraq', Department of Peace Operations (Deadline: 3 May); Internship - Director's Unit, Department of Peace Operations. For more information, please contact [Nik Engel](#).

International Alert: [Eurasia Programme Manager](#), London (Deadline: 6 April).

International Crisis Group: [Analyst - Indonesia](#); [Fundraising Officer, New York](#); [Publications Officer, Brussels \(Deadline: 11 April\)](#); [Senior Analyst - Gulf States](#).

Nonviolent Peaceforce: [Field team members](#); [internships](#).

Partners for Democratic Change International: [Programme Manager](#), Brussels.

Search for Common Ground: [Country Director - Timor-Leste](#); [Director of Strategic Philanthropy](#), Washington DC; [Human Resources Assistant](#), Washington DC; [Junior Grants Analyst](#), Brussels; [Program Associate - Great Lakes and Sudan](#); [internships](#).

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

Publications and News:

Berghof

- Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management has changed its name to **Berghof Conflict Research**. Click [here](#) to visit the **new website**.
- **Mediating Identity Conflicts: Potential and Challenges of engaging with Hamas**, by Carolin Goerzig. Berghof Occasional Paper No. 30. Click [here](#).

CITpax

- **The Middle East's Hair Trigger**, by Shlomo Ben-Ami Daily News. 5 March 2010. 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**.

International Center for Transitional Justice

- **Transitions**. March 2010. Click [here](#).

International Crisis Group

- **CrisisWatch No. 79**. 1 March 2010. Click [here](#).
- **Abkhazia: Deepening Dependence**, Europe Report No. 202. Click [here](#).
- **Iraq's Uncertain Future: Elections and Beyond**, Middle East Report No. 94. Click [here](#).
- **The Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora after the LTTE**, Asia Report No. 186. Click [here](#).

Life & Peace Institute

- **The Gothenburg Process: Faith based advocacy for disarmament**. Click [here](#).

Quaker Council for European Affairs

- **EU Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan: Briefing, Evaluation, and Action for Quakers**. Click [here](#).
- **Transforming Impasse: The way through conflict with Quaker listening processes**. Click [here](#).
- **The Nabucco Gas Pipeline: A chance for the EU to push for change in Turkmenistan**, by Neil Endicott. Click [here](#).

Saferworld

- Click [here](#) for the latest **Saferworld Activity Report**.

Search for Common Ground

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

Swisspeace

- **KOFF Newsletter No. 85**. 1 March 2010. Click [here](#).

Call for papers:

The International Network of Psychologists for Social Responsibility (INPsySR) is looking for submissions of abstracts for presentations or workshop activities on topics of 'Conflict, Peace, and Integration' for the Annual Conference of the German Peace Psychology Association which will take place 16-18 June 2010 in Bielefeld, Germany. Click [here](#) for more information.

Training Courses and Fellowship Programmes:

Partners for Democratic Change International: Training course on strengthening peacebuilding and development initiatives through consensus building. 14-16 April, Brussels. (Deadline for registration: 10 April). For more information, please contact [Kristin van der Leest](#).

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—forumZFD: The Academy for Conflict Transformation continues to offer a variety of training seminars on peace throughout 2010. All 2-5 day seminars take place in Königswinter near Bonn. For more information, please 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, IPDTC will organise a course entitled 'Advanced Mediation and Peacemaking' programme. For more information, please contact [PATRIR](#) or visit the IPDTC [website](#).

EPLO Gender Peace and Security Working Group: Training seminar on European Civil Society Advocacy on Women, Peace and Security. 22-23 April, Brussels. (Deadline for registration: 16 April). For more information, please contact [Sanne Tielemans](#).

EPLO MEMBERS

Berghof Conflict Research
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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EPLO welcomes applications from peacebuilding organisations. The next deadline for membership applications is mid-May 2010. Click [here](#) to download the application form.

UPCOMING EPLO EVENTS

Statebuilding at the Heart of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

Two-day workshop organised by the Madariaga—College of Europe Foundation and the Folke Bernadotte Academy, in close co-operation with the Spanish Presidency, the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, the European Commission and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) as part of the Conflict Prevention in Practice programme. Brussels, 27-28 May 2010. For more information, please click [here](#) or contact [Daniel Fiott](#).

The European External Action Service: Challenges for a new European diplomacy

SIRENE research seminar organised by ESSEC Iréné in collaboration with the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). Paris, 7 May 2010. Confirmed speakers include: Fulvio Attina (University of Catania), Caterina Carta (London School of Economics), Aurélien Colson (ESSEC Iréné), Piero Fassino (EU Special Envoy for Burma), John Hemery (Centre for Political and Diplomatic Studies), Antje Herrberg (European Forum for International Mediation and Dialogue), Alan Hunt (University of Oxford), Alain Lemepereur (ESSEC Iréné), Christian Lequesne (Centre for International Studies and Research, Paris), Philippe Martin (European Commission), Catherine Woollard (European Peacebuilding Liaison Office) and Styliani Zervoudaki (European Commission). For more information, please contact [Francesco Marchi](#).



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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OTHER EVENTS

Participation and Inclusion in Conflict-affected Regions

Roundtable meeting organised by Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI) and Nonviolent Peaceforce focusing on case studies from Georgia, Yemen and Sri Lanka, as well as best practices and lessons learned from peaceful democratic transitions in Central and Eastern Europe. Brussels, 19 April. For more information, please contact [Daniela Kolarova](#).

The 3C approach in fragile situations: The role of civil society

Conference organised by the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs and the Austrian Ministry for Defence on a coordinated, complementary and coherent approach in fragile situations and the role of civil society. For more information, please contact [Ursula Werther-Pietsch](#).

