



EPLO CONFLICT PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

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European Peacebuilding
Liaison Office
Rue Belliard 205, Box 12
1040 Brussels
Belgium

Tel. (General):
+32 (0)2 233 37 37
Fax:
+32 (0)2 233 37 38

General e-mail:
office@eplo.org
Website:
www.eplo.org

Inside this Issue:

Page 2:

- Focus on the review of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict

Page 3:

- EU Documents
- EU Agenda

Page 4:

- News, Publications and Training Courses from EPLO's Member Organisations
- Job Vacancies and Internships
- Initiative for Peacebuilding

Page 5:

- Civil Society Dialogue Network
- Recent EPLO Publications

If you have any comments about the EPLO Conflict Prevention Newsletter or suggestions for the next issue (March/April 2011) please contact [Ben Moore](mailto:Ben.Moore@eplo.org).

EU IN THE WORLD UPDATE

Council of the EU: The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) met on 31 January and 21 February in Brussels. In January, ministers discussed and adopted conclusions on Egypt, Tunisia, Belarus, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, the Sahel and Lebanon. They also discussed the Middle East and had an exchange of views on freedom of religion and belief. Finally, they adopted conclusions on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) (see below).

In February, ministers discussed the situation in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood and adopted conclusions on intolerance, discrimination and violence on the basis of religion and belief. They also discussed the Middle East Peace Process, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Finally, High Representative (HR) Ashton briefed them on the EU strategies for the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

On 22 February, EU ministers for development held an informal meeting in Brussels. They discussed the future of EU development co-operation and ways to further the democratic transformation process more effectively in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood.

EU ministers for defence had an informal meeting on 24-25 February in Brussels. They discussed ongoing EU military operations, the major directions and issues in the area of defence policy, and the EU's partnerships with both the UN and NATO.

The General Affairs Council (GAC) also met on 31 January and 21 February in Brussels. In January, the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU briefed the Council on their presidency programme, and in February, ministers prepared for the European Council which will take place on 24-25 March in Brussels.

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

European Council: The European Council met on 4 February in Brussels. EU heads of state and government issued a declaration on Egypt and the region.

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

High Representative (HR): On 25 February, HR Ashton appointed Jana Hybášková (Czech Republic) as Head of the EU Delegation in Iraq.

On 14-17 February, HR Ashton visited Tunisia and the Middle East, and on 21-22 February, she visited Egypt.

European External Action Service (EEAS): On 6 January, HR Ashton appointed Nicholas Westcott (United Kingdom) as Managing Director for Africa. On the same day, she announced that the Steering Board of the European Defence Agency (EDA) had appointed Claude-France Arnould as EDA Chief Executive.

On 22 December, HR Ashton appointed the permanent chairs of a number of Council working groups, including Mika Markus Leinonen

(Finland) - Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management; Bert Versmessen (Belgium) - Politico-Military Working Party; Fiona Lunny (Ireland) - Working Party on Africa; and Engelbert Theuermann (Austria) - Working Party on Human Rights.

And finally, on 21 December, she appointed Hugues Mingarelli (France) as EEAS Managing Director for the Middle East and the Southern Neighbourhood; and Viorel Isticioaia Budura (Romania) as EEAS Managing Director for Asia.

For more information about the EEAS, please contact [Josephine Liebl](mailto:Josephine.Liebl@eplo.org).

CSDP missions: During the FAC meeting on 21 February in Brussels, EU foreign ministers adopted a decision establishing a framework for the participation of Montenegro in EU crisis management operations.

On 16 February, a UK House of Lords committee published a report in which it criticised the EU's Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan).

During the FAC meeting on 31 January in Brussels, EU foreign ministers adopted conclusions in which they welcomed the so-called "Weimar letter" of 6 December 2010, signed by France, Germany and Poland, on strengthening military and civilian capabilities in Europe.

Click [here](#) to read an article from [EUObserver](#) about the House of Lords report on EUPOL Afghanistan and for more information about CSDP missions, please contact [Sanne Tielemans](mailto:Sanne.Tielemans@eplo.org).

European Union Special Representatives (EURSs): During the FAC meeting on 21 February in Brussels, EU foreign ministers adopted a decision to extend the mandate of the EURS in Kosovo Pieter Feith until 30 April 2011.

European Parliament: The European Parliament had plenary sessions on 17-20 January and 14-17 February in Strasbourg, and on 2-3 February in Brussels. In January, MEPs adopted resolutions on an EU Strategy for the Black Sea, the situation in Belarus, the situation of Christians in the context of freedom of religion, the EC-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Agreement, the Interim Partnership Agreement between the EC and the Pacific States, the EU-Republic of Congo forest law agreement, the EU-Cameroon forest law agreement and the FLEGT voluntary partnership agreements.

In February, they adopted resolutions on border clashes between Thailand and Cambodia, the World Bank's energy strategy, the situation in Egypt, granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under loans and guarantees for projects outside the EU, the agreement between the EC and South Africa on trade, development and co-operation, and the situation in Tunisia (see 'EU Documents' on p. 4).

For more information about events in the European Parliament, please contact [Ben Moore](mailto:Ben.Moore@eplo.org).

THE 2011 REVIEW OF THE EU PROGRAMME FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENT CONFLICT (GOTHENBURG PROGRAMME)

By Péter Torda, Hungarian Representative on the Committee for the Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM).

The European Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts (the Gothenburg Programme) marks its 10th anniversary in June 2011. The Gothenburg Programme has served as the most important manifesto of the Union's political commitment to pursue conflict prevention as one of the main objectives of its external relations and of the Union's resolution to improve its capacity to prevent violent conflicts and to contribute to a global culture of prevention.

Some years ago when we took our first steps in preparation for the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU), it emerged as one of the first and most obvious ideas in regard to external relations to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Gothenburg Programme. We saw it as a golden opportunity to take stock of our achievements over the past 10 years, to take a look at how the global context of the Union's action in conflict prevention has evolved over this period and, on the basis of all this, to identify guidelines for the further implementation of the Programme in a new strategic environment. We envisaged that the results of this systematic review would be referred to the EU's Foreign Affairs Council in June 2011 in anticipation of the approval of a political "review" document. This was and remains our vision of what we call the "Gothenburg review process".

What we could not foresee in those days was that by the time the Hungarian Presidency took office in January 2011, the most profound change in the history of EU external relations would have occurred and that a new institutional landscape for EU external action would have taken shape. All this brought about by the Treaty of Lisbon, the Hungarian Presidency accorded its ambitions to the new legal and institutional realities and eagerly undertook a supportive role in the Gothenburg review process with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, benefiting from the assistance of the European External Action Service (EEAS), in the lead.

The new era of EU external relations has unfolded in such a way that has provided significant and fresh impetus to reaffirming the priority of conflict prevention on the

EU agenda and has created an environment which is highly conducive to the Gothenburg review process. Key developments have been the enshrinement of conflict prevention in the Treaty of Lisbon as an EU objective and the establishment of the EEAS with the inclusion of a dedicated directorate responsible explicitly for conflict prevention and security policy.

Against this background, the Hungarian Presidency organised an expert seminar ("Academic Retreat") in Budapest on 27-28 January 2011 as a starting event for the Gothenburg review process. The term "Academic Retreat" reflected our intention to conduct a free intellectual exercise based on frank and straightforward discussions in a fully interactive and participatory meeting mode under the Chatham House rule. At the same time, we aimed to reconcile the academic nature of the event with the desired outcome of the retreat being the drawing up of policy-relevant conclusions and recommendations which allowed for follow-up work. Our guiding principles when defining the target audience for the event were inclusiveness and participation. We designed the Academic Retreat to offer a common platform for EU Member States, EU institutional actors, international organisations, and partners from both civil society as well as from the academic world and expert organisations. We are very proud to have succeeded in bringing together world-class experts and practitioners in Budapest and we feel that we managed to exploit this unique joint potential to the maximum. I take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation to EPLO and to every other participant and contributor for their engagement and support.

As for the way forward in the Gothenburg review process, the EEAS has signaled its intention to follow up on the outcomes of the Budapest seminar in view of the political review document to be approved by the of Foreign Affairs Council in June 2011. To inform preparatory work, a second seminar providing a platform for EU Member States, international partners and partners from civil society is tentatively scheduled to take place in late March / early April in Brussels.

For more information about the issues raised in this article, please contact the [author](#).

NB/ A new EPLO paper on the implementation of the Gothenburg Programme will be available to download soon from the [EPLO website](#). For more information, please contact [Josephine Liebl](#).

EPLO Office

Catherine Woollard: Executive Director

Josephine Liebl: Policy Officer

Ben Moore: Policy Officer

Sanne Tielemans: Policy Officer

Najoua Sbai: Events and Office Coordinator

Kayleigh McElligott: Intern

Giulia Pasquinelli: Intern

[first initial][surname]@eplo.org



WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EPLO?

Click [here](#) for information about recent publications and upcoming events.

EPLO BLOG

Click [here](#) for to read the latest posts on the EU, peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

GOT A QUESTION ABOUT THE EU AND PEACEBUILDING?

Click [here](#) to contact the EPLO Helpdesk.



EU DOCUMENTS

High Representative (HR) / President of the European Council / Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)

- 28 February – [Remarks](#) by HR Ashton in the margins of the Human Rights Security Council
- 27 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the UN Security Council resolution and latest developments regarding the situation in Libya
- 27 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the resignation of the Tunisian Prime Minister
- 23 February – [Declaration](#) by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on Libya
- 23 February – [Declaration](#) by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on events in Libya
- 20 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the proposed legislation on women's shelters in Afghanistan
- 19 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the events in Bahrain
- 19 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton following the vote in the UN Security Council on the resolution on the settlements
- 17 February – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on Yemen
- 17 February – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on Bahrain
- 15 February – [Declaration](#) by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on Zimbabwe
- 15 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the legislative elections in Chad
- 11 February – [Joint statement](#) by President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso, and HR Ashton on recent developments in Egypt
- 10 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on Egypt following the speech by President Mubarak
- 10 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the situation in Egypt
- 7 February – [Declaration](#) by HR Ashton, on behalf of the EU on the final referendum results on Southern Sudan's self-determination
- 7 February – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the border clashes between Cambodia and Thailand
- 5 February – [Speech](#) by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, at the 47th Munich Security Conference -
- 4 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the decision of Somali Parliament
- 4 February – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on journalists and human rights defenders in Egypt
- 4 February – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the elections in Haiti
- 3 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton the situation in Egypt
- 3 February – [Joint statement](#) by HR Ashton and EU Commissioner Andris Piebalgs on the elections in Niger
- 3 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the situation in Egypt
- 1 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the referendum on Kazakhstan

Council

- 12 February – [AU-EU joint statement](#) on the International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers
- 9 February – Sudan: [Joint Statement](#) by the Witnesses of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement
- 7 February – [Press Release](#): Tunisia: Council imposes assets freeze

Parliament

- 17 February – [Resolution](#) on border clashes between Thailand and Cambodia
- 17 February – [Resolution](#) on the World Bank energy strategy
- 17 February – [Resolution](#) on the situation in Egypt
- 17 February – [Resolution](#) on granting an EU guarantee to the EIB against losses under loans and guarantees for projects outside the EU
- 15 February – [Resolution](#) on the agreement between the EC and South Africa on trade, development and cooperation
- 3 February – [Resolution](#) on the situation in Tunisia
- 3 February – [Resolution](#) on the establishment of a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide (amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1889/2006)
- 3 February – [Resolution](#) on the financing instrument for development cooperation

EU AGENDA

Council of the EU: The next meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council and the General Affairs Council will take place on 21 March in Brussels, and the European Council will meet on 24-25 March in Brussels. The following Council committees and working parties will also meet in March:

European Parliament: The next European Parliament plenary session will take place on 7-10 March in Strasbourg. The following European parliamentary (sub-)committees will also meet in March:

- **Political and Security Committee:** 1, 4, 15, 16, 22 and 29
- **Committee for the Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management:** 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 and 30
- **Working Party on Development Co-operation:** 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 28 and 31
- **Africa Working Party:** 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
- **Working Party on Human Rights:** 15
- **Foreign Affairs:** 8, 16 and 22
- **Development:** 3 and 22
- **Security and Defence:** 15
- **Human Rights:** 14-15
- **Women's Rights and Gender Equality:** 3 and 14-15
- **Budgets:** 3, 15-16, 24 and 31
- **Constitutional Affairs:** 14-15

For more information about meetings in the EU institutions, please visit the [EU Events](#) section of the EPLO website.

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM EPLO'S MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Job vacancies

EPLO

- [Pool of Consultants: Experts on the EU and Peacebuilding](#)

International Alert

- [Country Director - Lebanon](#) (Deadline: 11 March 2011)

International Center for Transitional Justice

- [Director - Gender Justice Programme](#), New York (Deadline: 14 March 2011)

International Crisis Group

- [Accountant and Payroll Specialist](#), Washington DC
- [Communications & IT Officer](#), Washington DC
- [Communications Officer \(Arabic/French\)](#), Brussels
- [Senior Analyst - China](#)
- [Senior Analyst - Iran](#)
- [Senior Analyst - Tunisia](#)

Interpeace

- [Senior Programme Officer - Somali Programme](#), Nairobi

Nonviolent Peaceforce

- [Field team members](#)

Search for Common Ground

- [Country Director - Democratic Republic of Congo](#)
- [Country Director - Lebanon](#)
- [Design, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist](#), Washington DC
- [Director - Europe](#), Brussels
- [Line Producer - Middle East and North Africa - Common Ground Productions \(CGP\)](#), Yemen

World Vision

Internships

[EPLO](#), Brussels (Deadline: 11 April 2011)

[Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation](#), Glencree, Ireland

[International Alert](#), London

[International Crisis Group](#), Beijing, Brussels, Nairobi, New York, Pristina and Washington DC

[Interpeace](#), Nairobi

[Life and Peace Institute](#), Uppsala, Sweden and Nairobi

[Nonviolent Peaceforce](#), Brussels and Minneapolis

[Search for Common Ground](#), Washington DC and Brussels

[Swisspeace](#), Bern

News and Publications

Berghof Conflict Research: [From Revolutionary War to Democratic Revolution: The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front \(FMLN\) in El Salvador](#) (November 2010)

Conciliation Resources: [Paix sans frontières: Building peace across borders](#) - Accord Issue 22 (2011)

Crisis Management Initiative: [Supporting Democratic and Peaceful Change in Burma / Myanmar](#) (October 2010)

International Alert: [Terre, pouvoir et identité - Les causes profondes des violents conflits dans l'est de la république démocratique du Congo](#) (November 2010)

International Center for Transitional Justice: [Making an Impact: Guidelines on Designing and Implementing Outreach Programs for Transitional Justice](#) (January 2011); [Transitions](#) (February 2011)

International Crisis Group: [Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East \(I\): Egypt Victorious?](#) (24 February 2011); [CrisisWatch No. 90](#) (1 February 2011)

Life & Peace Institute: [Protracted conflicts: A long way to go for peace](#) - New Routes Volume 15 No. 4 / 2010; (NB/ New Routes is now available as a [free E-journal](#)) [Horn of Africa Bulletin](#) (February 2011)

Pax Christi International: [Newsletter No. 205](#) (February 2011)

Quaker Council for European Affairs: [Military Responses to Energy Security Problems: What Role for Common Security and Defence Policy?](#) (November 2010); [Around Europe No. 328](#) (December 2010 - January 2011)

Saferworld: [China's Growing Role in African Peace and Security](#) (February 2011)

Search for Common Ground: [Common Ground News Service](#)

swisspeace: [Money Makers as Peace Makers? Business Actors in Mediation Processes](#) (November 2010); [KOFF Newsletter No. 94](#) (1 February 2011)

Training Courses

Academy for Conflict Transformation: [Trauma and the Psychosocial Dimension of Peace Work](#) (16-17 March 2011, Bonn, Germany)

Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution: [European Security and Defence College Core Course on Security Sector Reform](#) (20-27 May 2011, Stadtschlaining, Austria) (Deadline for applications: 15 March 2011),

Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation: [Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Peacemaking Certificate Course](#) (8-13 August 2011, Glencree, Ireland)

International Peace and Development Training Center: [Systemic Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation and Post-War Recovery and Reconciliation \(PCTR\)](#) (6-10 June 2011, Cluj Napoca, Romania)

INITIATIVE FOR PEACEBUILDING



The Initiative for Peacebuilding is a consortium led by International Alert and funded by the European Commission. It drew 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.

Recent Publications

[Climate Change, Governance and Fragility: Rethinking Adaptation Lessons from Nepal](#) (January 2011); [A Guidance for Integrating Peacebuilding into Development](#) (December 2010); [Confronting an Abusive Past in Security Sector Reform after Conflict: Guidelines for practitioners](#) (November 2010)

For more information about the Initiative for Peacebuilding, please contact [Herta Eckert](#) from International Alert or visit the [website](#).

EPLO MEMBERS

Berghof Conflict Research
Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network (KATU)
Conciliation Resources
Crisis Management Initiative
ESSEC IRÉNE
European Network for Civil Peace Services
Fractal
Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
International Alert
International Center for Transitional Justice
International Crisis Group
Interpeace
Kvinna till Kvinna
Life and Peace Institute
Nansen Dialogue Network
NGO Support Centre
Nonviolent Peaceforce
Partners for Democratic Change International
Pax Christi International
Quaker Council for European Affairs
Saferworld
Search for Common Ground
swisspeace
Toledo International Centre for Peace (CITpax)
World Vision

EPLO welcomes membership applications from peacebuilding organisations. The next deadline for membership applications is **19 April 2011**.

Click [here](#) to download an application form.

CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE NETWORK

Next Meeting

**Member State Meeting in The Netherlands:
Peacebuilding, Statebuilding and Situations of Fragility**
Wednesday 6 April 2011, The Hague

For more information about this meeting please contact [Ben Moore](#)

Previous Meetings

Member State Meeting in Finland: Conflict Prevention and the European Union
Monday 7 February 2011, Helsinki

**Instrument for Stability (IfS) Crisis Preparedness Component
Strategy Paper 2012-2013 and Annual Action Programme 2011**
Monday 24 January 2011, Brussels

For more information about previous Civil Society Dialogue Network meetings, please visit the [EPLO website](#).

Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a three-year project funded by the European Commission aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and the EU institutions. It will contribute to strengthening international and regional capacity for conflict prevention and post-conflict co-operation.

For more information about the Civil Society Dialogue Network, please visit the [EPLO website](#).



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.

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
Rue Belliard 205, Box 12
1040 Brussels
Belgium

Tel. (General): +32 (0)2 233 37 37
Fax: +32 (0)2 233 37 38

E-mail (General): office@eplo.org
Website: www.eplo.org

RECENT EPLO PUBLICATIONS

- [Conflict prevention and peacebuilding inside the EEAS](#) (February 2011)
- [Linking Peacebuilding and Development](#) (February 2011)

For older EPLO publications, please visit the [EPLO website](#).

