



European Peacebuilding
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If you have any
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next issue (April 2012),
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 23 January in Brussels. EU foreign ministers adopted conclusions on Iran and its nuclear programme; the EU response to reforms undertaken in Burma, events in Syria, the Middle East Peace Process, and the situation in Sudan and South Sudan. They also had an exchange of views on the EU-facilitated dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo, and adopted the EU-Pakistan 5-year engagement plan. Finally, they discussed and adopted conclusions on a number of issues under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) (see below).

The General Affairs Council (GAC) met on 27 January in Brussels. Ministers discussed the EU's multiannual financial framework for the period 2014-2020, had an exchange of views on the Danish Presidency's work programme, prepared for the European Council meeting which will take place on 1-2 March, and took stock of the follow-up to the commitments which were undertaken at the European Council meeting on 9 December 2011. They were also briefed by the European Commission on the preparations for the implementation as of 1 April of the new European Citizen's Initiative.

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

European Council: On 30 January, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy issued a press release in which he reiterated the "serious and deepening concerns" of the Members of the European Council over the Iranian nuclear programme, welcomed the "important changes" taking place in Burma and voiced his "grave concern" at the situation in Syria.

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

Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP): On 23 January, the FAC adopted the crisis management concept for a CSDP action to support security at the Juba international airport in South Sudan. EU foreign ministers also adopted conclusions on the activation of the EU Operations Centre for the Horn of Africa.

Click [here](#) to download the FAC conclusions (CSDP on pp. 16-17) and click [here](#) to download the latest issue of *EU Security and Defence News*. For more information about CSDP missions, please contact [Giulia Pasquinelli](mailto:Giulia.Pasquinelli@eplo.org).

European Union special representatives (EUSRs): On 23 January, the FAC appointed Mr Andreas Reinicke (Germany) as EUSR to the Middle East Peace Process. Mr Reinicke is currently Germany's ambassador to Syria. He will take office on 1 February and his mandate will run until 30 June 2013.

On 25 January, the Council appointed Mr Samuel Žbogar (Slovenia) as EUSR in Kosovo. Mr Žbogar is to be double-hatted as Head of the EU Office in Kosovo (a position to which he was designated on 21 December 2011). He is a former

Slovenian Minister for Foreign Affairs and diplomat. He will take office on 1 February and his mandate will run until 30 June 2013.

Click [here](#) for more information about EUSRs.

European External Action Service (EEAS): On 6 February, HR Ashton announced her intention to appoint Peter Zsoldos (Slovakia) as Head of the EU Delegation to Libya and Javier Niño Perez (Spain) as Head of the EU Delegation to Haiti. Mr Zsoldos was most recently the Slovak Ambassador to Egypt and Mr Niño Perez is currently Chargé d'Affaires in the EU Delegation to Cuba.

On 23 February, the FAC appointed General Patrick de Rousiers (France) as chairman of the Military Committee of the European Union (EUMC) for a period of three years as of 6 November 2012. General de Rousiers will replace General Håkan Syrén (Sweden).

Click [here](#) to read an EPLO blog post on the various analyses of the state-of-play of the EEAS one year after its launch. For more information about the EEAS, please contact [Josephine Liebl](mailto:Josephine.Liebl@eplo.org).

European Commission (EC): On 16 February, the EC and HR Ashton published a joint proposal for a Council decision on the accession of the EU to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-east Asia.

On 27 February, the EC published a communication on 'Trade, growth and development: Tailoring trade and investment policy for those countries most in need'.

Click [here](#) to download the joint proposal and [here](#) to download the EC communication.

European Parliament (EP): The EP had plenary sessions on 16-19 January and 13-16 February in Strasbourg; and on 1-2 February in Brussels. In January, members elected Martin Schulz (Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, Germany) as EP President.

In February, members adopted resolutions on women's situation in war, the budgetary control of EU humanitarian aid, consistent policy towards regimes against which the EU applies restrictive measures, EU foreign policy towards the BRICS and other emerging powers; the participation of Morocco in EU programmes, an EU-Guinea-Bissau protocol on fishing opportunities, an EU-Morocco agreement concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products and fishery products, recent developments in Egypt, the UN Human Rights Council and the situation in Syria (see 'EU documents' on p. 4).

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

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC): On 19 January, the EESC adopted an opinion on 'The role of the EU in Peacebuilding in external relations: best practice and perspectives'.

Click [here](#) to download the EESC opinion.

EU DOCUMENTS

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

- 17 February – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton welcoming the UN General Assembly Resolution on Syria
- 17 February – [Declaration](#) by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on Zimbabwe
- 13 February – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the anniversary of the unrest in Bahrain
- 13 February – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the capture of the leader of Shining Path in Peru
- 13 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the decisions by the League of Arab States on Syria
- 10 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on Syria
- 10 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton and Commissioner Füle on the appointment of the state government in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 8 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the adoption by the Council of the EU-Pakistan 5-year engagement plan
- 8 February – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the Maldives
- 6 February – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the situation in northern Mali
- 4 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton following the veto of the UNSC Resolution on Syria
- 2 February – [Speech](#) of HR Ashton on Iran and its nuclear programme
- 1 February – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the continued crackdown on civil society in Egypt
- 1 February – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on efforts to end the violence in Syria
- 30 January – [Press statement](#) on foreign policy issues
- 28 January – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on Madagascar
- 28 January – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC by Guatemala
- 25 January – [Statement](#) by EU HR Ashton on the one-year anniversary of the Egyptian uprising on 25 January
- 23 January – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the ICC's decision to lay formal charges against four individuals in relation to the 2007-2008 post-election violence in Kenya
- 23 January – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the opening session of the Egyptian Parliament
- 17 January – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan
- 13 January – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the release of political prisoners in Burma-Myanmar
- 3 January – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the meeting of Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Amman
- 30 December – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on raids by Egyptian judicial and police authorities on the offices of CSOs
- 29 December – [Statement](#) by the spokespersons of HR Ashton and Commissioner Füle on the political agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the formation of the state government
- 27 December – [Statement](#) by the spokesperson of the HR Ashton on the latest developments in Guinea-Bissau
- 27 December – [Joint statement](#) by HR Ashton and Commissioner Füle on the new government in Tunisia

Council

- 17 February – [Press release](#): Council eases restrictive measures on Burma/Myanmar
- 14 February – [Joint press communiqué](#): 14th EU-China Summit
- 10 February – [Joint communiqué](#): EU-Mexico Joint Council
- 10 February – [Joint statement](#): 12th EU-India summit
- 23 January – [Joint press release](#): Eighth meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council between the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the EU

Commission

- 16 February – [Joint proposal](#) for a Council decision on the accession of the EU to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia
- 27 January – [Communication](#): Trade, growth and development - Tailoring trade and investment policy for those countries most in need

Parliament

- 16 February – [Resolution](#) on the situation in Syria
- 16 February – [Resolution](#) on the United Nations Human Rights Council
- 16 February – [Resolution](#) on Egypt: recent developments
- 16 February – [Resolution](#) on the EU-Morocco agreement concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural and fishery products
- 14 February – [Resolution](#) on the EU-Guinea-Bissau protocol on fishing opportunities
- 14 February – [Resolution](#) on the participation of Morocco in EU programmes
- 2 February – [Resolution](#) on EU foreign policy towards the BRICS and other emerging powers
- 2 February – [Resolution](#) on consistent policy towards regimes against which the EU applies restrictive measures
- 2 February – [Resolution](#) on the budgetary control of EU humanitarian aid
- 2 February – [Resolution](#) on women's situation in war

EU AGENDA

Council of the EU: The next meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) and General Affairs Council (GAC) will take place on 27 and 28 February respectively in Brussels. The European Council will meet on 1-2 March in Brussels. The following Council committees and working parties will also meet in February and March:

- **Political and Security Committee:** 21, 22, 24, 27 and 29 February; and 6, 9, 13, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 27 and 30 March
- **Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management:** 24, 27 and 29 February; and 5, 7, 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28 March
- **Development Co-operation:** 25 February and 5, 8, 15, 22, 26 and 29 March
- **Africa:** 22 and 28 February; and 7, 14 and 21 March
- **Human Rights:** 13-14 March

European Parliament: The next European Parliament plenary sessions will take place on 12-15 March in Strasbourg and on 28-29 March in Brussels. The following European parliamentary (sub-) committees will also meet in February and March:

- **Foreign Affairs:** 29 February – 1 March and 8, 20-22 and 27 March
- **Development:** 29 February – 1 March and 27 March
- **Security and Defence:** 28 February and 20 March
- **Human Rights:** 28 February and 19-20 March
- **Women's Rights and Gender Equality:** 27-28 February and 27 March
- **International Trade:** 29 February – 1 March and 26-27 March
- **Budgets:** 27-28 February and 8, 21-22 and 29 March
- **Budgetary Control:** 28-29 February and 20, 26-27 and 29 March

PEACEBUILDING IN EU INVESTMENT POLICY

By Josephine Liebl – Senior Policy Officer, EPLO

A common EU investment policy

Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, investment policy has become part of the EU's common commercial policy and thereby an exclusive EU competence. This means that EU Member States have referred responsibility for investment policy to the EU institutions and that the policy is subject to EU decision-making processes. The EU was previously responsible for negotiating market access for investments outside the EU: the so called pre-establishment phase. The Lisbon Treaty increases the EU's competences to also include the negotiation of rules governing the post-establishment phase and to enter into investment treaties with third countries.

In practice, this will mean that the Council of the EU will grant a mandate to the European Commission (DG Trade) to negotiate investment chapters within free trade agreements or stand-alone investment treaties with third countries.

Investment treaties mostly take the form of bilateral investment treaties (BITs) which are negotiated between two states and which outline the rules that govern foreign direct investment from one state (home state) to the other (host state). BITs were developed in the 1950s; the first one was signed between Germany and Pakistan in 1959. The primary purpose of BITs was to protect investors from industrialised countries from expropriation of assets in the developing world during the decolonisation period. At present, there are approximately 1200 BITs between EU Member States and third countries.

The peacebuilding dimension of investment policy

Foreign investment can be an important contributing factor for economic development. Investment treaties are often entered into by developing countries in order to attract such investment. However, there are a number of risks related to investment which, if not properly addressed, may have negative impacts in the host country. These include:

- Lack of prior consultation of people affected by investment leading to opposition to, damaging effects of, resentment and lack of optimisation of investment
- Improper management of the 'resource curse' when it comes to extraction of natural resources, often due to lack of transparency and accountability in the host government
- Environmental degradation, destruction of communities' livelihoods and limited or no compensation for affected communities
- Fuelling of existing conflicts or triggering of new conflicts due to the unequal distribution of profits from investment (investment revenues may widen the inequality gap rather than closing it)
- Lack of effective regulation and accountability mechanisms for foreign investors
- Human rights violations caused by security forces protecting investment sites

The European Commission's July 2010 communication 'Towards a comprehensive European international investment policy' provides that investment agreements should be 'consistent with the other policies of the Union and its Member States, including policies on the protection of the environment, decent work, health and safety at work, consumer pro-

policy' and 'guided by the principles and objectives of the Union's external action more generally, including the promotion of the rule of law, human rights and sustainable development.'

However, the negotiating mandates for investment protection chapters in the EU's free trade agreements with Canada, India and Singapore have not included the necessary safeguards regarding human rights, environmental protection and conflict sensitivity.

Unfortunately, even if these safeguards were included in the negotiating mandates, it would be uncertain whether the host state would be able to enforce them due to another provision which the EU is insisting on including in its investment agreements: investor-state arbitration.

Investor-state arbitration

All investment agreements specify how disputes arising from the agreement will be settled. In most cases, they refer to international investment arbitration mechanisms such as the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) or the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Using these investment arbitration mechanisms, investors are able to sue governments. This means that arbitrators can review whether governments' legislative, judicial and executive measures are in accordance with investment standards such as non-discrimination, fair and equitable treatment and non-expropriation. Due to arbitrators' expansive interpretation of these standards, governments can be asked to pay compensation for introducing policies which were deemed harmful to investors' expected profits, on the basis that they amounted to discrimination, unfair treatment, or indirect or regulatory expropriation.

In some cases, this has meant that governments which have introduced measures such as stricter health and safety regulations for workers or environmental protection safeguards have had to pay compensation to investors as stipulated by arbitration mechanisms. It may also substantially restrict the ability of governments to introduce legislation aimed at reconciliation or social justice. For instance, in 2009, a group of Italian investors sued the Government of South Africa under the Italy-South Africa BIT in order to receive compensation for the effect of the black economic empowerment policies on their expected profits. As a result, the Government of South Africa substantially reduced the measures required of the investors stemming from its economic policies.

In investor-state arbitration, investors do not have to exhaust local remedies, (i.e. seek recourse in the judicial system of the host state), but can choose to go directly to the arbitration tribunal which was specified in the investment agreement. International arbitration tribunals normally consist of three arbitrators who are agreed on by the investor and state beforehand. Tribunals often operate in an opaque manner meaning that under some of the mechanisms, basic information is not publicly available (e.g. information on cases which are currently being considered or on awards which have been decided). In addition, arbitrators lack the institutional safeguards of independence which are otherwise present in domestic and international courts. Once an arbitration case is settled, there is very limited possibility of appeal and the financial awards can be enforced in the domestic courts of many countries without any further judicial review.

PEACEBUILDING IN EU INVESTMENT POLICY (CONTINUED)

Due to the size of the awards resulting from investment arbitration, governments may shy away from introducing certain policies. A good example of this was the case brought by Vattenfall, a Swedish energy company, against the Government of Germany. Vattenfall planned to construct and operate a coal-fired plant close to Hamburg but, due to local opposition, the process of issuing the necessary permits was delayed and, in the end, contained several restrictions aimed at reducing its environmental impact. In response, Vattenfall filed for arbitration for € 1.4 billion in compensation. The case did not come to arbitration as Germany withdrew the previously-agreed environmental requirements and issued the permits.

What kind of EU investment policy?

In its July 2010 communication, the Commission provides that it would seek to accede to the ICSID Convention, thereby enabling EU investment agreements with third countries to be arbitrated under the ICSID. It is, however, not yet clear how the financial and legal responsibility for claims made against the EU would be dealt with. For example, if a Canadian company finds a violation under the EU-Canada investment chapter of the free trade agreement, would it sue the EU Member State in which the alleged violation occurred or the European Commission which negotiated the agreement? Similarly, who would have to pay the award: the EU Member State in question or the Commission via the EU budget?

The Commission is currently developing a legislative proposal aimed at addressing these issues. It will be discussed in the European Parliament and the Council of the EU in the coming months and this could provide an opportunity to once again raise higher-order questions relating to the current investment regime such as the restriction of democratic governance and the accountability and transparency of investment arbitration tribunals. As there is no clear correlation between BITs and actual investment flows into developing countries, a discussion on the question of whose interest the current investment regime operates in would also be timely.

Additional links:

- European Commission: [Proposal for a Regulation establishing transitional arrangements for bilateral investment agreements between MS and third countries](#) (July 2010)
- European Commission: [Communication: Towards a comprehensive European international investment policy](#) (July 2010)
- Council of the EU: [Conclusions on a comprehensive European international investment policy](#) (October 2010)
- European Parliament: [Resolution on the future European international investment policy](#) (March 2011)
- [International Institute for Sustainable Development](#)
- [International Investment Arbitration and Public Policy](#)

EPLO Office

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WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EPLO?

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

EPLO BLOG

Click [here](#) 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.



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INITIATIVE FOR PEACEBUILDING - EARLY WARNING



The Initiative for Peacebuilding – Early Warning (IFP-EW) is a consortium led by International Alert and funded by the European Commission. It draws on the expertise of 10 members comprising civil society organisations, networks and universities and three associates with offices across the EU and in conflict-affected countries.

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

Recent Publications

- [Policy Brief: Water, Crisis and Climate Change in Uganda](#) (August 2011)
- [Youth, Collective Urban Violence and Security: Key Findings](#) (July 2011)
- [Multilevel Dynamics in the EU's Approach to Preventive Action in Armenia](#) (July 2011)
- [Climate Change Impacts on Socio-environmental Conflicts: Vulnerability in Facing Climate Change and Social Conflicts in Mexico](#) (June 2011)
- [Water, Crisis and Climate Change Assessment Framework \(WACCAF\)](#) (June 2011)

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM EPLO'S MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Job Vacancies

Conciliation Resources: [Director of Planning and Organisational Performance](#), London (Deadline: 12 March 2012)

Crisis Management Initiative: [Regional Team Coordinator – Africa](#), Helsinki (Deadline: 27 February 2012); [Facilitator – South Sudan](#), Juba (Deadline: 2 March 2012)

International Alert: [Project Support Officer](#), London (Deadline: 26 February 2012)

International Center for Transitional Justice: [Senior Grant Writer](#), New York (Deadline: 29 February 2012)

International Crisis Group: [Analyst – Somalia](#), Nairobi; [Analyst – Thailand](#); [Communications Editor](#) (Temporary), Brussels; [Development Officer](#), Brussels or London (Deadline: 5 March 2012)

Nonviolent Peaceforce: [International Protection Officer – Jongle](#) [Emergency Response](#), Juba

Oxfam International: [Researcher – Aid & Development Finance](#) (Maternity cover), Brussels, (Deadline: 26 February 2012); [Approximately 120 vacancies in Oxfam affiliates](#)

Partners for Democratic Change International: [Project, Finance and Administrative Officer](#) (Part-time), Brussels (Deadline: 2 March 2012)

Saferworld: [Programme Manager – Kenya](#), Nairobi (Deadline: 27 February 2012); [Director of Programmes](#), London (Deadline: 29 February 2012); [Programme Manager – Caucasus](#), Tbilisi/London (Deadline: 12 March 2012)

Search for Common Ground: [Finance & Administrative Assistant – Nigeria](#), Port Harcourt, Nigeria; [Design, Monitoring & Evaluation Manager – Nigeria](#), Port Harcourt, Nigeria; [Grants & Compliance Manager – Nigeria](#), Port Harcourt, Nigeria; [Media Coordinator – Nigeria](#), Port Harcourt, Nigeria; [Field Officer – Nigeria](#), Port Harcourt & Warri, Nigeria; [Program Associate – Sub-Saharan Africa](#), Washington DC; [Sustainable Business Practices Manager – Tanzania](#), Tarime & Kahama, Tanzania; [Country Director – Lebanon](#), Beirut; [Project Manager – Nigeria](#), Port Harcourt, Nigeria; [Country Director – Morocco](#), Rabat; [Sahel Team Leader](#), Niamey, Niger

World Vision International: [Approximately 40 vacancies](#)

Internships

[Fractal](#), Belgrade

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

[Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict](#), The Hague

[HD Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue](#), Geneva

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

[Life & Peace Institute](#), Uppsala, Sweden (Deadline: 30 April 2012); Nairobi and Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo

[Nonviolent Peaceforce](#), Minneapolis

[Partners for Democratic Change International](#), Brussels

[Search for Common Ground](#), Various country offices (Deadline: 25 February); Brussels or Washington DC (Deadline: 1 April 2012) and Washington DC

[swisspeace](#), Bern

[World Vision International](#), USA (various locations)

Training Courses

Academy for Conflict Transformation (forumZFD): [Mediation and Negotiation](#), 27-29 February 2012, Bonn, February

Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution: [International Civilian Peacekeeping/Peacebuilding Training Program \(IPT\) Core Course](#), 4-17 March 2012, Stadtschlaing, Austria

International Peace and Development Training Centre (PATRIR): [Complex Emergencies and the Nature of Conflicts in Africa \(CENCA\)](#), 5 March – 6 April 2012, Online

Publications

Berghof Foundation: [The CNDD-FDD in Burundi: The path from armed to political struggle](#) – Berghof Transitions Series No. 10 (January 2012); [From Combatants to Peacebuilders: A case for inclusive, participatory and holistic security transitions](#) – Policy Report (January 2012)

Conciliation Resources: [Whose peace is it anyway? Connecting Somali and international peacemaking](#) – Policy Brief (February 2012)

Crisis Management Initiative: [The European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh: Progress and Prospects](#) (October 2011)

HD Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue: [Preventing Election Related Violence](#) (December 2011)

International Alert: [What peace and whose? Envisioning a more comprehensive, more stable peace in South Sudan and Sudan](#) (February 2012)

International Center for Transitional Justice: [Supporting Complementarity at the National Level: An Integrated Approach to Rule of Law](#) – Synthesis Report (December 2012)

International Crisis Group: [Indonesia: The Deadly Cost of Poor Policing](#) – Asia Report No. 218 (February 2012); [CrisisWatch](#) No. 102 (1 February 2012)

Interpeace: [Our Process](#) (December 2011)

Kosovar Center for Security Studies: [Drawing Boundaries in the Western Balkans: A people's perspective](#) (October 2011)

Life & Peace Institute: [Creating space for fresh approaches to peacebuilding in Somalia](#) (January 2012); [Horn of Africa Bulletin](#) (January-February 2012)

Nansen Dialogue Network: [Dialogue: More than a tool, less than a magic fix](#) – NDN Dialogue Paper (September 2011)

Oxfam International: [Crisis in a new world order: Challenging the humanitarian project](#) (February 2012)

Pax Christi International: [Sudan's 'New South': The War in Southern Kordofan and the Prospects for Peace](#) – CPA Alert No. 4 (October 2011); [Newsletter](#) No. 217 (February 2012)

Quaker Council for European Affairs: [EU External Action – The Agenda as Reflected in Spending Priorities](#) (January 2012); [Around Europe No. 338](#) (December 2011 – January 2012)

Saferworld: [Public protest and visions for change – Yemen: People's Peacemaking Perspectives](#) (December 2011); [South Sudan Monitor](#) (February 2012)

Search for Common Ground: [Strengthening Work at the Nexus of Arts, Culture and Peacebuilding](#) (February 2012); [Common Ground News Service](#)

swisspeace: [KOFF Newsletter](#) No. 104 (1 February 2012)

Toledo International Centre for Peace (CITpax): [International Observatory on the DDR Process and the Justice and Peace Law – Fourth Report \(Executive Summary\)](#) (September 2011)

World Vision International: [Citizens' participation at the centre of the aid agenda](#) (October 2011); [eNews](#) (February 2012)

EPLO MEMBERS

Berghof Foundation
 Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network (KATU)
 Conciliation Resources
 Crisis Management Initiative
 Dialogue Advisory Group
 ESSEC IRÉNE
 European Network for Civil Peace Services
 Fractal
 Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
 Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
 HD Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
 International Alert
 International Center for Transitional Justice
 International Crisis Group
 Interpeace
 Kosovar Center for Security Studies
 Kvinna till Kvinna
 Life and Peace Institute
 Nansen Dialogue Network
 NGO Support Centre
 Nonviolent Peaceforce
 Oxfam International
 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 International

EPLO welcomes applications from peacebuilding organisations.

The next deadline for membership applications will be in **April/May 2012**.

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

CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE NETWORK

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](#).

Next Meeting

Member State Meeting in Spain: EU Common Foreign and Security Policy as a Peacebuilding Tool
 Tuesday 13 March 2012, Madrid

For more information about this meeting, please contact [Josephine Liebl](#)

Previous Meetings

Policy Meeting: From Combatants to Statebuilders – Armed Groups in Participatory Peace Processes

10 February 2012, Brussels

For more information about this meeting, please contact [Florian Kadletz](#)

Funding Instruments Meeting: Instrument for Stability Annual Action Programme 2012

Thursday 8 December 2011, Brussels

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

Geographic Meeting: Middle East and North Africa: The Role of Civil Society in Institutional Reform

Thursday 1 December 2011, Brussels

For more information about this meeting, please contact [Florian Kadletz](#)

For more information about these and other Civil Society Dialogue Network meetings, 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.

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RECENT EPLO PUBLICATIONS

- [Power Analysis: The EU and Peacebuilding after Lisbon](#) (November 2011)
- [Follow-up to 10 Points on 10 Years UNSCR 1325 in Europe](#) (November 2011)
- [Power Analysis: The EU and Peacebuilding after Lisbon](#) (November 2011)

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