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**EU IN THE WORLD UPDATE**

**Council of the EU:** The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) met on 14 May in Brussels and on 25 June in Luxembourg. In May, ministers adopted conclusions on Afghanistan, the Middle East Peace Process, Syria, Somalia and Yemen, increasing the impact of EU development policy (‘Agenda for Change’), a new approach to EU budget support, policy coherence for development, a renewed EU-Pacific Development Partnership, and strengthening resilience to food crises in the Horn of Africa. They also discussed EU-Mexico relations, co-operation with Burma, and the development aspects of the Rio+20 outcome. Finally, they adopted the second annual report to the European Council on EU development assistance targets, and a position on investment financing within the within the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) - EU Partnership Agreement.

In June, ministers adopted conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central Asia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Pakistan, Syria, the Arms Trade Treaty and the European Neighbourhood Policy. They also adopted an EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, approved the 2011 report on EU action on human rights and democracy in the world and adopted a partial general approach on the package of EU external financing instruments under the next multiannual financial framework (2014-2020).

The General Affairs Council (GAC) met on 29 May in Brussels and on 26 June in Luxembourg. In May, ministers discussed preparations for the G20 summit in Mexico and held an exchange of views on Croatia’s preparations for accession to the EU. In June, they discussed the next EU multiannual financial framework and the preparations for the European council meeting on 28-29 June, and agreed to open accession negotiations with Montenegro. They also reached a political agreement on a draft regulation on bilateral investment treaties with third countries.

**European Union Special Representatives (EUSRs):** During its meeting on 25 June, the FAC appointed Patricia Flor (Germany) as EUSR for Central Asia. The FAC also extended the mandates of the following EUSRs until 30 June 2013: Sudan and South Sudan, the South Caucasus and the conflict in Georgia, the Southern Mediterranean region, the Horn of Africa, and Afghanistan.

**European External Action Service (EEAS):** On 16 May, EU High Representative (HR) Catherine Ashton announced her intention to appoint 15 new heads of delegation and 2 new deputy heads of delegation.

**European Commission (EC):** On 15 May, the EC and HR Ashton published joint communications on the European Neighbourhood Policy and on the Eastern Partnership. On 26 June, they published a joint communication on a Joint EU-Caribbean Partnership Strategy (see ‘EU Documents’ on p. 2).

**European Parliament (EP):** The EP had plenary sessions on 10 May in Brussels, and on 21-24 May and 11-14 June in Strasbourg. In May, members adopted resolutions on the EU’s trade and investment strategy for the Southern Mediterranean, and on the EU’s internal security strategy. In June, they adopted resolutions on development co-operation with Latin America, the next EU multiannual financial framework, the military coup in Guinea-Bissau, the situation in Sudan and South Sudan, an EUSR for Human Rights, the negotiations on UN Arms Trade Treaty, the monitoring of elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the human rights and the security situation in the Sahel region, and cases of impunity in the Philippines.

**Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP):** On 5 June, the Council of the EU agreed to prolong the EU’s rule of law mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo) until 14 June 2014.

Also on 5 June, the EU and Albania signed a framework agreement on the participation of Albania in EU crisis management operations. On 18 June, the Council of the EU approved a new mission to strengthen aviation security at Juba international airport: EUAVSEC South Sudan. Activities are due to start in September 2012 and will initially last for 19 months.

During its meeting on 25 June, the FAC agreed to extend the EU’s border assistance mission in Rafah (EU BAM Rafah) and the EU’s police mission in in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS) until 30 June 2013.

On 30 June, the EU completed its police mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM BiH).

Click here or contact Josephine Liebl for more information about CSDP missions.

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EU DOCUMENTS

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

30 June – Statement by HR Ashton on the Action Group meeting on Syria
27 June – Statement by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
20 June – Statement by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the political situation in Egypt
19 June – Statement by the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, and the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, on the results of the G20 summit in Los Cabos
18 June – Statement by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the current situation in Syria
15 June – Joint Statement by HR Ashton and Commissioner Stefan Füle on the appointment of the new Secretary-General of the Regional Cooperation Council
15 June – Statement by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the Egyptian Supreme Constitutional Court’s rulings of 14 June
15 June – Joint Declaration on Rio+20: ACP-EU Council of Ministers meeting
13 June – Statement by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the crisis in Northern Rakhine State in Burma
13 June – Speech by HR Ashton in the European Parliament on a new strategy for Afghanistan
12 June – Speech by HR Ashton on the latest developments in the Middle East and Syria
12 June – Statement by HR Ashton on the adoption of the UN resolution on the Arms Trade Treaty
9 June – Press Release: European Union will observe the Parliamentary Elections in Timor-Leste on 07 July, headed by MEP Ms Fiona Hall
8 June – Statement by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on serious armed incidents along the border of Armenia and Azerbaijan
8 June – Statement by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the deployment of an EU Election Assessment Team in Libya
29 May – Statement 5th joint consultative meeting between the EU PSC and the AU PSC
22 May – Statement by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on support for mediation in Madagascar
21 May – Statement by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the situation in Lebanon
20 May – Statement of the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, at the Chicago NATO Summit
17 May – Statement by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on the situation in Mali
11 May – EU and Iraq: signature of historic Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
11 May – Statement by the spokesperson of HR Ashton on Burma/Myanmar
5 May – Statement by HR Ashton welcoming the adoption of Security Council resolution on the roadmap for Sudan and South Sudan
1 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the agreement on OSCE facilitation of voting in Kosovo in Serbian elections

Council

29 June – Press Release: First Accession Conference with Montenegro
26 June – Press Release: Council agrees to extension of EBRD operations to southern and eastern Mediterranean
19 June – Press Release: Third meeting of the stabilisation and association council between Albania and the EU
15 May – Press Release: Fourth meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council between Albania and the EU

Commission

28 June – Report on the implementation of macro-financial assistance to third countries in 2011
20 June – Proposal for a regulation establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)
15 May – Joint communication on a new European Neighbourhood Policy assessing the implementation of the new approach
15 May – Joint Communication on delivering on a new European Neighbourhood Policy
14 May – Proposal for a Council Decision on status of the Republic of South Sudan in relation to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement
8 May – Proposal on reassigning part of the unallocated resources of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) to Intra-ACP cooperation

Parliament

14 June – Resolution on human rights and the security situation in the Sahel region
13 June – Resolution on the situation in Sudan and South Sudan
13 June – Resolution on the EU Special Representative for Human Rights
13 June – Resolution on the military coup in Guinea-Bissau
13 June – Resolution on the negotiations on the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)
13 June – Resolution on the EU trade agreement with Colombia and Peru
13 June – Resolution on the Multiannual Financial Framework and own resources
13 June – Resolution on the monitoring of elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo
12 June – Resolution on defining a new cooperation framework with Latin America
10 May – Resolution on The EU Trade and Investment Strategy for the Southern Mediterranean following the Arab Spring revolutions

EU AGENDA

Council of the EU: The next meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) will take place on 23 July. The next meetings of the General Affairs Council (GAC) will take place on 24 July and 24 September. The following Council committees and working group parties will also meet in July and September:

- Political and Security Committee: 10, 13, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24 and 27 July; and 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25 and 27 September
- Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management: 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25 and 30 July; and 3, 5, 10, 17 and 19 September
- Development Co-operation: 9, 19 and 23 July; and 6, 10, 13 and 20 September
- Africa: 11, 18 and 25 July; and 5, 12 and 19 September
- Human Rights: 10, 18 and 19 July; and 4 and 5 September

European Parliament: The next European parliament plenary sessions will take place on 10-13 September in Strasbourg. The following European parliamentary (sub-)committees will also meet in July and September:

- Foreign Affairs: 9-10 July; and 3 and 19-20 September
- Development: 9-10 July; and 3 and 17-18 September
- Security and Defence: 11 July; and 17-18 September
- Human Rights: 11-12 July; and 17-18 September
- Women’s Rights and Gender Equality: 10 July; and 3 and 19-20 September
- International Trade: 11-12 July; and 3 and 17-18 September
- Budgets: 9-10 and 12 July; and 6 and 19-20 September
- Budgetary Control: 9-10 July; and 17-18 and 26 September
OPERATIONALISING CONFLICT PREVENTION

By Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

Introduction
Conflict prevention is experiencing renewed momentum built on a growing understanding that timely investments towards tensions and stress factors yield significant results in political, economic and social terms. To fully unlock the potential of preventive action to consolidate peace and end violence, there needs to be better communication across sectors and institutions: on how conflict prevention practice has evolved over the last decade, and on the changing nature of conflict itself. What is more, there is a need for a more pronounced effort to distil the concrete evidence about when and how conflict prevention works. Main findings on the above include:

Main Findings: when and how conflict prevention works
• The greatest potential for conflict prevention lies in fostering the strength and resilience of local social and political networks and institutions that identify and mobilise constructive responses to tensions and stress factors. These networks and institutions define ‘strong, resilient systems’. Initiatives or programmes that are proactive, multi-layered, multi-sectoral, and locally-rooted represent the most promising practice for lasting conflict prevention.
• International support for conflict prevention is not a choice between short term action to imminent crises, or long term programming on stress factors; rather, international support should focus on better connecting short term responses and long term assistance to strengthen resilient national or regional systems of conflict prevention.
• To fully unlock the potential of preventive action, international actors should adjust their framing of problems and solutions to local understandings, as well as to the changing nature of armed violence, threats, and instabilities. Ownership of the responsibility to anticipate, mitigate and respond to conflict needs to be more deeply embedded as an integral part of national, regional and international planning.
• The record of preventive action of private mediating organisations and business must be better understood and integrated into prevention activities by formal actors, including national governments, the United Nations, and regional organisations.

A series of action points to strengthening international support for conflict prevention therefore include:
• Better communicate conflict prevention in terms of disseminating programming innovation and good practice, facilitating exchange between institutions and sectors, and better connecting short-term responses to known tensions with long-term programming against risk factors.
• Strengthen local monitoring capacity so as to improve assessment and analysis about evolving tensions and risk factors, and integrate knowledge of local complexities and concerns into decision-making mechanisms at local, national, regional and international levels.
• Build individual, organisational, and external-facing capacities within the United Nations, development agencies, NGOs, and businesses to better operationalise collaboration on multi-layered, multi-sectoral conflict prevention.
• Design more flexible financing mechanisms for conflict prevention, including a shift from earmarked to un-
• earmarked contributions within the UN.
• Expand the ownership of conflict prevention with emerging economies, and with conflict-affected and fragile states.

Conflict prevention as strong, resilient systems
Conflict Prevention has become a truly cross-cutting theme which makes it necessary to explain better what it represents. There are a series of features that such a joint understanding of conflict prevention may be built upon:
• Conflict prevention is a profoundly ‘local’ effort that involves existing national or sub-national actors, networks, or institutions; but that is embedded in an international context and activities. Local actors have substantial comparative advantage in understanding the history and drivers of disputes or violence, identifying sources of strength and resilience, calibrating appropriate responses, mobilising timely action, and evaluating its impact, especially in contexts where fast, efficient and effective responses are called for.
• Conflict prevention occurs along the entire timeline of instability, conflict management, crisis management, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.
• Conflict prevention requires the work or support of all actors, local and international, that have a bearing on a specific context. It cannot be delegated to any single actor.
• Conflict prevention is inherently cross cutting, with many modalities intersecting with security, development, peacebuilding and statebuilding.
• The definition of conflict prevention must be bounded enough to be actionable. These bounds can be defined by a focus on the strength and resilience of social and political networks and institutions that identify and mobilise responses to known tensions and stress factors.

Operationalising conflict prevention
Strengthening conflict prevention along an understanding of strong, resilient systems has various challenges to address.

The first of these challenges is that international actors must inform their framing of problems or solutions with local understandings. This requires a significant change in the way international actors analyse and understand local context, and how much such analysis is based on perspectives from the ground. In this sense, broad-brush programming around ‘pillars of state-building’ or even around ‘conflict prevention’ itself, may find less traction locally than a focus on dignity, public health, the ability to engage in commerce without corruption, employment creation, the empowerment of women, the reduction of armed violence, or another agenda as defined by local stakeholders.

Another challenge is that the international rhetoric of ‘local ownership’ must be made substantially more real, by improving the way local information is gathered and evaluated and by taking local perceptions and attitudes seriously and accurately balances the analyses of ‘insiders’ and ‘outsiders’ to a specific context or conflict situation.

A third challenge is to mitigate adverse effects on local prevention efforts of the ‘industrialisation’ of development and peacebuilding assistance. This industrialisation can systematically side-line local efforts and views because implementation relies on centrally-determined frameworks and priorities, ever larger programme grants, a relentless focus on delivery against plan, as well as an orthodoxy of quantitative impact measures.
A fourth challenge is to identify new strategies to manage situations where the strengthening of conflict prevention on the ground meets political resistance. Conflict prevention understood as strong, resilient systems will inevitably have political dimensions, and these dimensions will pose difficulties for some local or international actors.

A recurring feature is the disconnection between elite-agreements that may help stabilise a situation in the short term, and community-based peacebuilding programmes that target the transformation of conflict drivers. Bridging such approaches constructively may point to understanding elite agreements as an important marker of progress, or one aspect of a multi-layered process, rather than as the single most important goal.

The **Geneva Peacebuilding Platform** is an inter-agency network that connects the critical mass of peacebuilding actors, resources, and expertise in Geneva and worldwide. Founded in 2008, the Platform has a mandate to facilitate interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors, and to advance new knowledge and understanding of peacebuilding issues and contexts. It also plays a creative role in building bridges between International Geneva, the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in New York, and peacebuilding activities in the field.

The Platform’s network comprises more than 1000 peacebuilding professionals and over 60 institutions working on peacebuilding directly or indirectly. As part of its 2012-2014 Programme, the Platform provides policy-relevant advice and services, ensures the continuous exchange of information through seminars, consultations, and conferences, and facilitates outcome-oriented peacebuilding dialogues.

**EPLO Office**

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Josephine Liebl: Senior Policy Officer
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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.

**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](http://www.ifp-ew.org).

**Recent Publication**

- [Media, Youth and Conflict Prevention in Sierra Leone](#) (April 2012)
NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM EPLO’S MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Job Vacancies
The Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities: Associate Researcher in the South Caucasus (voluntary position)

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue: Regional Director, Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) region (Deadline: 12 July 2012)


International Alert: Project Support Officer, London (Deadline: 15 July 2012), Administrative Assistant/Receptionist, London (Deadline: 17th July 2012 at 5pm, UK time), Senior Research Officer – Gender in Peacebuilding, London (Deadline: 19th July 2012, 5pm, UK time), Head of Research, London (Deadline: 19th July 2012, 5pm, UK time)

International Centre for Transitional Justice: Senior Associate and Head of Office - Nepal, Kathmandu, Senior Accountant, New York (Deadline: 15 July 2012)

International Crisis Group: Accountant, Brussels, Analyst, Central Africa, Nairobi, Project Director, Horn of Africa, Nairobi

Interpeace: Senior Advisor, Evaluator, Programme Manager, Training Specialist

Life & Peace Institute: Policy and Communications Advisor, Uppsala, Sweden (Deadline: 13 August 2012)

Nonviolent Peaceforce: Staff Security and Safety Coordinator, Philippines


Pax Christi International: Secretary General, Brussels, Volunteer positions at the International Secretariat, Brussels

Saferworld: Area Project Manager – South Sudan, Juba (Deadline: 20 July 2012)

Search for Common Ground: Accounting and Grants Associate, Brussels, Human Resources Benefits Administrator/Generalist, Washington DC, Deputy Country Director DRC, Kinshasa, Country Director - Pakistan, Islamabad, West Africa Director, Washington DC

World Vision International: Approximately 30 vacancies

Internships
Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue: Geneva

Conciliation Resources: Caucusus Programme Volunteer, London (Deadline: Thursday 12 July 2012)

Crisis Management Initiative: Intern, Africa Team, Helsinki (Deadline: 23 July 2012)


swisspeace: Civilian Service in Communications and Public Relations, Bern

World Vision: USA (various)

Training Courses
Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution: International Peacekeeping/Peacebuilding Training Program (IPT) Core Course, 28 October - 10 November 2012, Stadtschlaining, Austria

forumZFD (Academy for Conflict Transformation): Violent Group Conflicts and Approaches to Intervention, 11-12 October, Königswinter, Germany


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 recognize 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.

For more information about the Civil Society Dialogue Network, please visit the EPLO website.

Next Meetings

EEAS Early Warning tools
9 July 2012, Brussels
For more information about this meeting, please contact Giulia Pasquinelli.

Training Seminar on the EU and Peacebuilding
10-11 July 2012, Brussels
For more information about this meeting, please contact Josephine Liebl

Previous Meetings

Member State Meeting in Spain: EU Common Foreign and Security Policy as a Peacebuilding Tool
13 March 2012, Madrid
For more information about this meeting, please contact Josephine Liebl

Crisis Response Meeting: Analyse du conflit et des interventions possibles de l’UE dans le nord du Mali
1 March 2012, Brussels
For more information about this meeting, please contact Anna Penfrat

For more information about these and other Civil Society Dialogue Network meetings, please visit the EPLO website.

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For more information about these and other Civil Society Dialogue Network meetings, please visit the EPLO website.

EPLO welcomes applications from peacebuilding organisations.

The next deadline for membership applications is October/November 2012.

Click here to download an application form.

For older EPLO publications, please visit the EPLO website.

For more information about the African Peace Facility, please visit the EPLO website.

For Power Analysis: The EU and peacebuilding after Lisbon (updated)