

EPLO CONFLICT PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pages 1-2:	– EU Update	Page 9:	– EPLO Publications – Training Courses – Job Vacancies and Internships
Pages 3-6:	– EU Press Releases		
Page 7:	– Special Focus: Where are the EU's Women Leaders in Foreign Affairs?	Page 10:	– Civil Society Dialogue Network – Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action
Page 8:	– Publications by EPLO Member Organisations		

EU UPDATE

Council of the EU

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) met on 15 August in Brussels. EU foreign ministers adopted conclusions on Gaza and the Middle East Peace Process, Iraq, Libya, Ukraine, and the Ebola crisis.

EU foreign ministers also had an informal meeting (Gymnich) on 30 August in Milan, Italy. They discussed Ukraine, Iraq and Syria, and Gaza and the Middle East Peace Process.

The General Affairs Council (GAC) met on 29 September in Brussels. EU foreign and European ministers adopted conclusions outlining the EU's key objectives and priorities for the 2nd UN conference on landlocked developing countries (3-5 November, Vienna). They also:

- discussed a draft annotated agenda for the next European Council meeting (23-24 October, Brussels)
- received a briefing on the first meeting of the Friends of the Presidency Group on improving the functioning of the EU (25 September, Brussels)
- amended the timetable for the provisional application of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement
- broadened the mandate of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) rule of law mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo) (see below).

Click [here](#) to read the FAC conclusions from 15 August, [here](#) to read the remarks by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton at the end of the informal meeting of EU foreign ministers on 30 August, and [here](#) to read the GAC conclusions from 29 September.

European Council

The European Council held a special meeting on 30 August. EU heads of state and government adopted conclusions on Gaza, Iraq and Syria, Libya, Ukraine, and the Ebola crisis. They also elected Donald Tusk (Poland) as President of the European Council for the period December 2014 – May 2017, and appointed Federica Mogherini (Italy) as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for the period from the end of the current term of office of the Commission until October 2019.

Click [here](#) to read the European Council conclusions from the special meeting on 30 August.

European External Action Service (EEAS)

On 5 September, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton announced the appointment of six new heads of EU delegations (EUDs):

- Viorel Isticioaia Budura has been appointed as Head of the EUD to Japan. Mr Isticioaia Budura is currently Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific in the European External Action Service (EEAS).
- Peter Sorensen has been appointed as Head of the EUD to the UN in Geneva. Mr Sorensen is currently the EU Special Representative (EUSR) and Head of the EUD to Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Jean-François Valette has been appointed as Head of the EUD to Côte d'Ivoire. Mr Valette is currently the French Ambassador to the Republic of Congo.

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EU UPDATE (CONTINUED)

- Tina Intelmann has been appointed as Head of the EUD to Liberia. Ms Intelmann is currently President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- Sven Kühn von Burgsdorff has been appointed as Head of the EUD to Mozambique. Mr Kühn von Burgsdorff is currently Head of the EUD to South Sudan.
- Leonidas Tezapsidis has been appointed as Head of the EUD to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Mr Tezapsidis is currently the Head of EUD to Madagascar.

Click [here](#) to read the press release about the appointments of the heads of the EUDs to Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, Liberia, Mozambique, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and the UN in Geneva.

Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

On 4 August, Colombia and the EU concluded a framework participation agreement for Colombia's participation in EU crisis management operations.

On 25 September, the Political and Security Committee (PSC) agreed to extend the mandate of the EU mission to provide advice and assistance for Security Sector Reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUSEC RD Congo) until June 2015.

On 29 September, the GAC broadened the mandate of EULEX Kosovo to support the relocated judicial proceedings arising from the investigation by the EU Special Investigative Task Force (SITF) into the allegations contained in the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly report of January 2011.

On 30 September, the PSC agreed the concept of operations for the EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine).

Click [here](#) to read the press release about Colombia, [here](#) to read the press release about EUSEC RD Congo, [here](#) to read the press release about EULEX Kosovo, and [here](#) to read the press release about EUAM Ukraine.

European Commission (EC)

On 13 August, the European Commission (EC) published the 2014 annual report on the EU's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2013.

On 28 August, the EC published the 2014 annual report on the EU's humanitarian aid and civil protection policies and their implementation in 2013.

On 2 September, the EC published proposals for a Council decision on the signing, conclusion and provisional application of a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement between the EU and Senegal.

On 5 September, the EC published a report on the implementation of Council Framework Decision 2008/919/JHA of 28 November 2008 amending Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA on combating terrorism.

On 15 September, the EC published a proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the West African States, Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), of the one part, and the EU and its Member States, of the other part.

On 19 September, the EC published a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 374/2014 on the reduction or elimination of customs duties on goods originating in Ukraine.

Click [here](#) to read the documents which were published by the EC in August and September.

European Parliament (EP)

The European Parliament (EP) had a plenary session on 15-18 September in Strasbourg. Members adopted resolutions on the situation in Ukraine and state of play of EU-Russia relations, the EU response to the Ebola outbreak, the situation in Iraq and Syria and the IS offensive, including the persecution of minorities; the situation in Libya, Israel-Palestine after the Gaza war and the role of the EU; the persecution of human rights defenders in Azerbaijan, Burundi, in particular the case of Pierre Claver Mbonimpa; and human rights violations in Bangladesh.

In October, the EP held parliamentary hearings for the 28 Commissioners-designate.

Click [here](#) to read the texts which were adopted by the EP in September and [here](#) for more information about the hearings.

UPCOMING EU EVENTS

European Parliament plenary sessions: 20-23 October, 12-13 November and 24-27 November

Foreign Affairs Council: 20 October and 17-18 November

European Council: 23-24 October

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Visit the [EPLO website](#), like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) for information about recent publications and upcoming events (including EPLO lunch events).

EU PRESS RELEASES

President of the European Council

- 26 September 2014 – [Declaration by the Prime Minister of Canada and the Presidents of the European Council and European Commission: 'A New Era in Canada-EU Relations'](#)
- 26 September 2014 – [Press statement by President Herman Van Rompuy following the EU-Canada Summit in Ottawa](#)
- 25 September 2014 – [Speech by President Herman Van Rompuy to the 69th UN General Assembly](#)
- 24 September 2014 – [Remarks by President Herman Van Rompuy at the UN Security Council – Special session on Foreign Terrorist Fighters](#)
- 16 September 2014 – [Joint statement by President Herman Van Rompuy and President of the European Commission José Manuel Durão Barroso on the ratification of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement](#)
- 16 September 2014 – [Speech by President Herman Van Rompuy at the conference 'Asia and Europe Working Together'](#)
- 11 September 2014 – [Statement by President Herman Van Rompuy on further EU restrictive measures against Russia](#)
- 8 September 2014 – [Statement by President Herman Van Rompuy on further EU restrictive measures against Russia](#)
- 5 September 2014 – [Joint letter by President Herman Van Rompuy and the President of the European Commission José Manuel Durão Barroso on restrictive measures against Russia](#)
- 5 September 2014 – [Extracts from the statement of President Herman Van Rompuy at the NATO Summit – North Atlantic Council \(NAC\) meeting](#)
- 4 September 2014 – [Statement by President Herman Van Rompuy at the NATO summit – Meeting on Afghanistan \(ISAF\)](#)
- 30 August 2014 – [Remarks by President Herman Van Rompuy following the decision of the European Council to elect a new European Council President and to appoint a new EU High Representative](#)
- 11 August 2014 – [Joint statement by President Herman Van Rompuy and the President of the European Commission José Manuel Durão Barroso in the name of the EU on the elections in Turkey](#)
- 3 August 2014 – [Joint statement by President Herman Van Rompuy and the President of the European Commission José Manuel Durão Barroso in the name of the EU on the situation in Gaza](#)
- 29 July 2014 – [Statement by President Herman Van Rompuy and the President of the European Commission José Manuel Durão Barroso in the name of the EU on the agreed additional restrictive measures against Russia](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the President of the European Council.

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

- 30 September 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the arrest in international waters and detention of a Lithuanian vessel by authorities of the Russian Federation](#)
- 26 September 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the decision by the Colombian Government and the FARC to publish the provisional agreements from Havana peace talks](#)
- 25 September 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the upcoming parliamentary elections in Bahrain](#)
- 25 September 2014 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the forthcoming entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty](#)
- 22 September 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the signature of the Peace and National Partnership Agreement in Yemen](#)
- 18 September 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the ongoing intimidation of Medzhlis of Crimean Tatars in Crimea](#)
- 15 September 2014 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the reported holding of local "elections" in Crimea](#)
- 9 September 2014 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the formation of the new government in Iraq](#)
- 4 September 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the progress in the implementation of IBM agreement](#)
- 2 September 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the announcement of land appropriation by Israel](#)
- 29 August 2014 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the appointment of Federica Mogherini as the next High Representative](#)
- 29 August 2014 – [Remarks by High Representative Catherine Ashton at the end of the informal meeting of EU foreign ministers \(Gymnich\)](#)
- 28 August 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on South Sudan](#)
- 27 August 2014 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the ceasefire in Gaza](#)
- 14 August 2014 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the appointment of Bernardino León as the new Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Libya](#)
- 12 August 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton following today's extraordinary meeting of the Political and Security Committee](#)
- 10 August 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the nomination of Mr Haider Al Abadi as Prime Minister designate of Iraq](#)
- 10 August 2014 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the deterioration of the situation in Iraq](#)
- 7 August 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the verdict against former senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea](#)
- 6 August 2014 – [Statement by the spokespersons of High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle on the arrest of Rasul Jafarov in Azerbaijan](#)
- 5 August 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the ceasefire in Gaza](#)
- 4 August 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the situation in northern Iraq](#)
- 2 August 2014 – [Statement by the spokespersons of High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle on the arrest of Leyla Yunus in Azerbaijan](#)
- 31 July 2014 – [Statement by the spokespersons of High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle on criminal charges being filed against former President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili](#)
- 30 July 2014 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the sentencing of the Nation Magazine Editor Bheki Makhubu and human rights lawyer Thulani Maseko](#)
- 30 July 2014 – [Joint statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton and New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully on the EU-New Zealand Partnership Agreement on Relations and Cooperation](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

EU PRESS RELEASES

European External Action Service

- 26 September 2014 – [EU runs new crisis management exercise](#)
- 24 September 2014 – [EU to appoint dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN](#)
- 23 September 2014 – [EU participation in the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples](#)
- 23 September 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the sentencing of respected Uighur academic Ilham Tohti](#)
- 22 September 2014 – [EU to observe elections in Mozambique](#)
- 21 September 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the forming of the national unity government in Afghanistan](#)
- 21 September 2014 – [Statement on the ceasefire implementation agreement in Ukraine](#)
- 19 September 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the progress in the implementation of energy arrangements](#)
- 19 September 2014 – [EU election observation mission deployed in Tunisia](#)
- 18 September 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the political prisoners in Eritrea](#)
- 17 September 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the parliamentary elections in Fiji](#)
- 16 September 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the progress in the implementation of freedom of movement arrangement](#)
- 15 September 2014 – [EU-Turkmenistan Human Rights Dialogue](#)
- 15 September 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the second Russian "humanitarian convoy" dispatched to Eastern Ukraine](#)
- 11 September 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the abduction of the Estonian police officer](#)
- 8 September 2014 – [Joint statement by Canada and the EU](#)
- 5 September 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the agreement reached on a ceasefire in Ukraine](#)
- 4 September 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Singapore on their eastern border limits](#)
- 2 September 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the political situation in Lesotho](#)
- 25 August 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the situation in Libya](#)
- 25 August 2014 – [Déclaration du porte-parole sur la formation d'un nouveau gouvernement en République centrafricaine](#)
- 24 August 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the "presidential elections" in the breakaway region of Abkhazia in Georgia](#)
- 20 August 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the situation in Pakistan](#)
- 20 August 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the sentencing of demonstrators involved in the Bolotnaya Square events](#)
- 9 August 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#)
- 6 August 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the sentencing of respected Uighur academic Professor Ilham Tohti](#)
- 6 August 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the situation in Lebanon](#)
- 4 August 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the first meeting of the Libyan Council of Representatives](#)
- 3 August 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on Nagorno-Karabakh](#)
- 1 August 2014 – [Statement on the humanitarian truce in the Gaza Strip](#)
- 31 July 2014 – [Statement on the shelling of an UNRWA school and a market in Gaza](#)
- 26 July 2014 – [Joint statement by the special envoys for Libya](#)
- 25 July 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the election of the new President of Iraq](#)
- 25 July 2014 – [Statement on the need for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip](#)
- 25 July 2014 – [Déclaration du porte-parole sur le forum de réconciliation nationale inter-centrafricaine](#)
- 25 July 2014 – [Déclaration du porte-parole sur l'adoption d'une feuille de route pour parvenir à un accord de paix global pour le Nord Mali](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the European External Action Service.

Council of the EU

- 29 September 2014 – [Joint statement of the Council and the Commission on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement](#)
- 25 September 2014 – [EUSEC RD Congo extended](#)
- 11 September 2014 – [Reinforced restrictive measures against Russia](#)
- 31 July 2014 – [Adoption of agreed restrictive measures in view of Russia's role in Eastern Ukraine](#)
- 30 July 2014 – [G-7 Leaders Statement on Ukraine](#)
- 30 July 2014 – [Adoption of agreed EU restrictive measures over Crimea and Eastern Ukraine](#)
- 30 July 2014 – [EU approves strategy on citizen security in Central America and the Caribbean](#)
- 29 July 2014 – [Council scales up humanitarian assistance for Syria](#)
- 29 July 2014 – [EU restrictive measures in view of the situation in Eastern Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea](#)
- 24 July 2014 – [EU sanctions over situation in Eastern Ukraine strengthened](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the Council of the EU.

EU Delegations

- 30 September 2014 – [Joint local statement on threats to civil society and human rights in the Maldives](#)
- 30 September 2014 – [Déclaration locale de l'UE sur la libération provisoire et conditionnelle de Pierre Claver Mbonimpa](#)
- 22 September 2014 – [Local EU statement on the results of the parliamentary elections in Fiji](#)
- 16 September 2014 – [Déclaration locale de l'UE en accord avec les chefs de missions diplomatiques des états membres en république du Congo](#)
- 15 September 2014 – [Sana'a: Local EU statement on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy: 'Engaging Youth on Democracy'](#)
- 14 September 2014 – [Kinshasa: Déclaration locale de l'UE sur la condamnation du député Jean-Bertrand Ewanga](#)
- 10 September 2014 – [Bujumbura: Déclaration locale de l'UE sur la situation du président de l'Association pour la protection des droits humains et des personnes détenues](#)
- 10 September 2014 – [Bujumbura: Déclaration locale de l'UE sur l'assassinat de trois religieuses italiennes](#)
- 22 August 2014 – [EU local statement: The EU calls for freedom of expression and freedom of the media in South Sudan](#)
- 13 August 2014 – [Khartoum: The EU calls for release of the political leader Meriam al Mahdi](#)
- 6 August 2014 – [Colombia and the EU sign a framework agreement on participation in EU crisis management operations](#)
- 30 July 2014 – [Local EU statement on the situation in Ethiopia](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from EU delegations.

EU PRESS RELEASES (CONTINUED)

EU Delegations – continued

- 24 July 2014 – [Khartoum: Local EU statement on Meriam Ibrahim](#)
 23 July 2014 – [Joint local statement on restrictions on non-governmental organisations and on freedom of expression in Sri Lanka](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from EU delegations.

European Commission

- 29 September 2014 – [Central African Republic: The EU trust fund starts delivering support to population](#)
 29 September 2014 – [The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Moldova join COSME, the EU's financing programme for small and medium-sized enterprises](#)
 29 September 2014 – [Speech by President José Manuel Durão Barroso: 'Regional integration and global developments – a view from the European Union'](#)
 26 September 2014 – [IPA II: Over € 11 billion to support reform efforts in enlargement countries](#)
 25 September 2014 – [South Sudan: The EU increases humanitarian assistance by € 20 million](#)
 25 September 2014 – [President José Manuel Durão Barroso joins President Barack Obama and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in the fight against Ebola and announces additional € 30 million euros for humanitarian aid](#)
 24 September 2014 – [Syria crisis: An extra € 112 million to prevent a lost generation of children](#)
 23 September 2014 – [Syria crisis: EU steps up assistance](#)
 23 September 2014 – [Speech by President José Manuel Durão Barroso at the Climate Summit 2014](#)
 22 September 2014 – [The EU to observe elections in Mozambique](#)
 22 September 2014 – [The EU boosts its co-operation on sustainable energy with developing countries](#)
 21 September 2014 – [Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union Algirdas Šemeta welcomes G20 Finance Ministers' agreement on new measures to combat corporate tax avoidance](#)
 21 September 2014 – [Speech by President José Manuel Durão Barroso: 'The European Union in the New World Order'](#)
 18 September 2014 – [Speech by Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Kristalina Georgieva: 'The EU's response to the Ebola crisis'](#)
 17 September 2014 – [Europe boosts humanitarian aid for Mali](#)
 16 September 2014 – [Speech by Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle: 'EU-Ukraine: there is no time to rest'](#)
 15 September 2014 – [Joint statement by Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Kristalina Georgieva, and Commissioner for Health Tonio Borg: 'Europe-wide response to the Ebola epidemic'](#)
 13 September 2014 – [New EU support for civil society in Ukraine](#)
 12 September 2014 – [Speech by President José Manuel Durão Barroso: 'Working together for a united Ukraine in a united continent'](#)
 12 September 2014 – [Joint ministerial statement on the implementation of the EU-Ukraine AA/DCFTA](#)
 11 September 2014 – [EU scales up its assistance for the conflict-affected people in Ukraine](#)
 11 September 2014 – [Speech by Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle: 'What does Maidan mean?'](#)
 8 September 2014 – [EU-Eastern Partnership meeting in Baku: Next steps to enhance relations](#)
 8 September 2014 – [EU supports African Union mission to fight Ebola](#)
 8 September 2014 – [EU-Azerbaijan: Reaffirmed commitment to promote democracy and human rights](#)
 8 September 2014 – [New EU support for better education system and employability in Azerbaijan](#)
 8 September 2014 – [The European Commission sets out cooperation priorities for the Eastern and the Southern Neighbourhood for coming years](#)
 8 September 2014 – [Speech by Commissioner for Internal Market and Services Michel Barnier: 'Transition politique vs Transition économique: fondement pour le développement futur'](#)
 8 September 2014 – [Speech by Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle: 'EU-Azerbaijan: Civil society has crucial role in our partnership'](#)
 5 September 2014 – [EU and Mongolia celebrate 25th anniversary of cooperation](#)
 5 September 2014 – [EU announces € 140 million package in response to Ebola virus outbreak](#)
 4 September 2014 – [Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs to announce new support for Benin during his visit to the country](#)
 2 September 2014 – [Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs signs development programmes for 21 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries](#)
 1 September 2014 – [Speech by Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs at the opening plenary session of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States](#)
 29 August 2014 – [Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs calls for a stronger partnership with small island developing states](#)
 29 August 2014 – [Statement by Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Kristalina Georgieva on 3 million refugees fleeing Syrian crisis](#)
 28 August 2014 – [Remarks by President José Manuel Durão Barroso following the Western Balkans Summit](#)
 25 August 2014 – [Speech by President José Manuel Durão Barroso: 'Tackling economic crises and global challenges through regional integration and international cooperation'](#)
 25 August 2014 – [Joint press statement between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the EU](#)
 19 August 2014 – [Statement by Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Kristalina Georgieva on World Humanitarian Day 2014](#)
 18 August 2014 – [Humanitarian aid reaches Iraq via EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#)
 13 August 2014 – [EU steps up humanitarian aid to victims of displacement and floods in Afghanistan and Pakistan](#)
 12 August 2014 – [EU increases humanitarian assistance for Ukrainian conflict-affected population](#)
 12 August 2014 – [Iraq: EU increases humanitarian aid](#)
 8 August 2014 – [West Africa: EU boosts its immediate aid to contain Ebola outbreak](#)
 8 August 2014 – [EU to provide new funding to counter organised crime and drug trafficking](#)
 6 August 2014 – [Statement by European Commission spokesman on the announcement of measures by the Russian Federation](#)
 6 August 2014 – [EU launches new programme to support Africa's continental integration](#)

EU PRESS RELEASES (CONTINUED)

European Commission – continued

- 1 August 2014 – [The EU increases humanitarian funding to help the victims of worsening crisis in Somalia](#)
- 30 July 2014 – [The EU scales up funding in response to Ebola outbreak in West Africa](#)
- 30 July 2014 – [G-7 leaders statement on Ukraine](#)
- 29 July 2014 – [The EU supports key reforms in the Republic of Moldova](#)
- 28 July 2014 – [The EU and Cameroon implement an economic partnership agreement](#)
- 25 July 2014 – [Ukraine: The European Commission adopts legislative proposals on restrictive measures](#)
- 25 July 2014 – [The EU increases humanitarian aid in Gaza in response to escalating crisis](#)
- 24 July 2014 – [South Sudan: Europe increases food aid](#)
- 23 July 2014 – [New funding for Ecuador announced by Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs during visit](#)
- 22 July 2014 – [Southern African region and the EU complete negotiations for an economic partnership agreement](#)
- 22 July 2014 – [Opening remarks by Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle at the plenary session of the Foreign Affairs Council on Eastern Partnership](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the European Commission.

European Investment Bank

- 30 September 2014 – [Uganda: € 28 million European backing for Crane Bank to benefit Ugandan firms](#)
- 22 September 2014 – [Burkina Faso: West African solar project gets € 23m EIB backing](#)
- 19 September 2014 – [Moldova: EU supports development of agriculture with € 120 million](#)
- 12 September 2014 – [EIB increases Climate Awareness Bond 2026 alongside climate finance commitment with global multilateral development banks](#)
- 11 September 2014 – [Multilateral development banks agree to reinforce climate financing in advance of UN summit](#)
- 8 August 2014 – [Tunisia: More than € 1 billion in new finance from EIB for investment in Tunisia since January 2011](#)
- 7 August 2014 – [South Africa: Eskom and the EIB agree a new € 75 million loan for 100 MW concentrating solar power plant](#)
- 6 August 2014 – [South Africa: EIB finances the DBSA's R1.4 billion renewable energy project in Northern Cape](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the European Investment Bank.

European Court of Auditors

- 23 September 2014 – [EU support following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti was well designed, but the effectiveness of implementation was insufficient – say EU Auditors](#)
- 10 September 2014 – [Improving accountability for EU policies requires greater cooperation between EU Member States, parliaments and auditors](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the European Court of Auditors.

European Court of Justice

- 24 September 2014 – [The General Court annuls the retention of Mr Qadhaf Al Dam, cousin of Muammar Qadhafi, on the list of persons subject to restrictive measures against Libya](#)
- 23 September 2014 – [The General Court annuls the entry of a Belarusian journalist in the list of persons subject to restrictive measures against Belarus](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the European Court of Justice.

European Parliament

- 30 September 2014 – [Budgets Committee recommends reversing Council cuts in EU budget for 2015](#)
- 25 September 2014 – [Oettinger: "Gas can be used as a weapon and no longer be delivered"](#)
- 25 September 2014 – [Italian Presidency priorities discussed by EP committees](#)
- 18 September 2014 – [MEPs welcome signs of hope in Ukraine and urge the EU to stand up to Russia](#)
- 18 September 2014 – [Libya: The EU must step up efforts to support stability and democracy, MEPs say](#)
- 18 September 2014 – [Human rights: Azerbaijan; the case of Mbonimpa in Burundi; Bangladesh](#)
- 18 September 2014 – [Islamic State: Step up EU and international efforts to end the killing](#)
- 18 September 2014 – [West Africa's Ebola outbreak is a global security issue, says Parliament](#)
- 17 September 2014 – ["We have an asymmetric war against western society coming from all directions"](#)
- 16 September 2014 – [EU budget 2015: Back your policy pledges with money, MEPs urge ministers](#)
- 16 September 2014 – [Historic vote: EU-Ukraine agreement approved in Strasbourg and Kiev](#)
- 16 September 2014 – [European Parliament ratifies EU-Ukraine Association Agreement](#)
- 16 September 2014 – [MEPs evaluate EU policy towards Russia](#)
- 12 September 2014 – [Schulz in Kiev: "What happens in Ukraine concerns all Europeans"](#)
- 8 September 2014 – [Foreign affairs MEPs recommend EP consent to EU-Ukraine association deal](#)
- 4 September 2014 – [EU's 2015 budget: EP committees determine their positions](#)
- 4 September 2014 – [Borg: EU has "moral obligation" to help countries affected by Ebola outbreak](#)
- 2 September 2014 – [EU must decide and deliver crisis aid faster, say foreign affairs MEPs](#)
- 1 September 2014 – [European Council summit: Schulz calls for political solution for Ukraine](#)
- 28 August 2014 – [Elmar Brok: Strong EU foreign policy vital to end crises in the neighbourhood](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the European Parliament.

WHERE ARE THE EU'S WOMEN LEADERS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS?

The current round of appointment for the EU's top jobs decided on the EU's leaders for the next five years. Unfortunately, the choice of candidates for senior EU jobs is rarely based exclusively on merit. It is determined by political factors and compromises linked to geographic balance, gender balance and political affiliation. As Member States were putting forward their candidates for the key EU posts, one major issue emerged: the insufficient number of female candidates.

This is not a new problem. In 2011, when the European External Action Service (EEAS) was established, it inherited a predominantly male workforce. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy (HR/VP) was a woman herself and strongly committed to achieving gender balance across the EEAS. Some steps have been taken but more progress needs to be made. While, for example, the number of female heads of EU delegations in third countries increased from 10 (prior to the creation of the EEAS) to 24, there is still no female head of a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission or operation and, currently, no female EU Special Representative (SR) (following the non-renewal of the mandate of Rosalind Marsden, EUSR for South Sudan, in 2013 and departure of Patricia Flor, EUSR for Central Asia). As these examples show, the responsibility lies as much – or more – with the EU's Member States as with the HR/VP.

In 2012, EPLO suggested the use of a quota system as a temporary measure to level the playing field for EEAS appointments. The use of quotas was ruled out by the EEAS leadership which argued that quotas are in conflict with merit-based recruitment. In the 2013 EEAS mid-term review, the HR/VP acknowledged that the EEAS was facing challenges in attracting well-qualified female candidates for senior-level positions and recognised that work on improving gender balance and on removing potential barriers to career progression should be intensified.

Given that the EEAS supports women's leadership in peace and security, the participation of women in peace processes as mediators, negotiators and civil society stakeholders, and women as change agents in conflicts, the absence of women from positions such as those of EUSRs or heads of CSDP missions and operations raises the question of double standards. What legitimacy does the EU have to promote abroad a principle that it cannot apply at home?

Gender equality is, of course, about far more than numbers. However the absence of women in leadership positions can contribute to perpetuating gender stereotypes and consolidating unequal gender roles. The presence of male-dominated or exclusively male international missions and representatives reinforces patriarchal power structures. This is particularly concerning in fragile countries where gender disparities may be a cause of conflict and violence.

The problem is exacerbated by the absence of women from policy debates on security matters in Brussels, which frequently feature all-male panels, including many events organised by and/or funded by the EU.

As leader of a relatively young institution and vice-president of the European Commission, the newly appointed HR/VP has a great opportunity to shake up the current system of appointments to key EEAS positions (as well as to other EU institutions).

Gender balance and merit are not at odds; they can both be achieved with appropriate tools. In order to do so, EPLO would like to urge the HR/VP to develop a strategy (which could include the adoption of quotas as a temporary measure to be revised half-way through her mandate) to address the imbalance in the appointment of men and women to senior-level EEAS positions, including managing directors, directors of thematic and geographic divisions, heads of CSDP missions and operations and EUSRs.

There are examples of good practice and attempts to rectify gender imbalance which should be supported and strengthened, including:

- Ensuring that there are women on interview panels for senior-level jobs in the EEAS
- Using the EEAS Women's Network to support women within EU external affairs
- Continuing the practice of the HR/VP meeting women when visiting third countries (often involving meeting civil society where women are un(der-)represented in political institutions) and extending it to EUSRs and heads of CSDP missions and operations
- Encouraging the European Parliament to continue to monitor and reject imbalances in appointments in other EU institutions
- Urging the Member States to propose female candidates for high-level positions, such as those of European Commissioners, as helpfully requested by Jean-Claude Juncker for this round of appointments to the European Commission.

Objective: 50% target of women in senior-level management positions in the EEAS by 2017.

Short-term indicator of progress: By October 2015, a 33% minimum quota for women in senior-level positions is established as a temporary measure to address the gender gap.

This article is an abridged version of a statement which will be available to download from the EPLO website soon. For more information about the statement or EPLO's work on gender, peace and security, please contact [Giulia Pasquinelli](#).

ARE YOU UNDERTAKING RESEARCH ON THE EU AND CONFLICT?

Click [here](#) to find out more about the 'Academic Friends of EPLO' initiative.

PUBLICATIONS BY EPLO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Berghof Foundation

- [Supporting Negotiations for Peace in Afghanistan](#)

Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (Cordaid)

- [Moving Sendong Survivors to Safer Ground in Cagayan de Oro](#)
- [4x4 Justice: Sharing Lessons from the Democratic Republic of Congo](#)
- [Entrepreneurs: Fostering Economic Opportunities in Fragile Contexts](#)
- [Afghanistan: Monitoring Women's Security in Transition Cycle 3 – May 2014](#)
- [Poverty eradication requires long-term focus on fragility: Cordaid's position for the Post-2015 Agenda](#)
- [Universal Health Coverage in Fragile States: A Radical Re-think of the Political Economy of Health](#)

Conciliation Resources

- [The Voice of Peace](#)
- [The new Conflict, Stability and Security Fund](#)

Democratic Progress Institute

- [International Contact Group for the Southern Philippines Peace Process](#) – Briefing

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict

- [Newsletter](#)

International Alert

- [Fragile reforms: World Bank and Asian Development Bank financing in fragile and conflict-affected situations](#)
- [Youth, peace and security in Uganda](#)
- [Conflict sensitivity institutional capacity assessment: Primary healthcare sector in Lebanon – Assessment Report, Conflict Sensitivity Checklist and Indicators for Community Perceptions](#)

International Center for Transitional Justice

- [Possibilities and Challenges for Transitional Justice in Mali - Briefing](#)
- ["To Walk Freely with a Wide Heart" – A Study of the Needs and Aspirations for Reparative Justice of Victims of Conflict-Related Abuses in Nepal](#)
- [World Report](#)

International Crisis Group

- [Bringing Back the Palestinian Refugee Question](#) – Middle East Report N°156
- [CrisisWatch](#) N°134
- [Zimbabwe: Waiting for the Future](#) – Africa Briefing N°103
- [Kenya: Al-Shabaab – Closer to Home](#) – Africa Briefing N°102
- [Venezuela: Dangerous Inertia](#) – Latin America Briefing N°31
- [Water Pressures in Central Asia](#) – Europe and Central Asia Report N°233
- [Rigged Cars and Barrel Bombs: Aleppo and the State of the Syrian War](#) – Middle East Report N°155
- [Cameroon: Prevention is Better than Cure](#) – Africa Briefing N°101
- [CrisisWatch](#) N°133

Kosovar Center for Security Studies

- [Kosovo's Membership and Representation in Regional Security Initiatives](#)

Life & Peace Institute

- [Horn of Africa Bulletin](#)

Oxfam International

- [Trading Away Access to Medicines "Revisited" – How the European trade agenda continues to undermine access to medicines](#)
- [A Sign of Things to Come: Examining four major climate-related disasters, 2010–2013, and their impacts on food security](#)
- [The Summit That Snoozed – Ban Ki-moon 2014 Climate Summit Media Brief](#)
- [Fiscal Justice to Reduce Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
- [Investing for the Few: The IFC's Health in Africa initiative](#)
- [A Fairer Deal for Syrians: International commitments needed to arrest the deepening crisis in Syria and the region](#)
- [Moral Hazard: "Mega" Agricultural public-private partnerships threaten livelihoods for African farmers](#)

Pax Christi International

- [The Role of the Holy See in Promoting Peace](#)
- [Newsletter](#) N°248

PAX*

- [Syria & Iraq Alert](#) I

Quaker Council for European Affairs

- [Around Europe](#) N°358
- [A Guide to Getting Involved – Part 2: The European Commission and the Council of the European Union](#) – Briefing paper

Saferworld

- ["How can you be a marda if you beat your wife?" – Notions of masculinities and violence in Eastern Nepal](#)
- [China ATT Update](#) – Issue 7
- [Investing in long-term peace? The new conflict, stability and security fund](#)
- [Beyond aid: addressing conflict and building peace](#)
- [Community security: A vehicle for peacebuilding and statebuilding](#)
- [Jordan: Local Capacities for Peace](#)
- [From the Sustainable Development Goals to the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Building a Consensus for Peace](#)
- [Newsletter](#)

Search for Common Ground

- [Measuring Social Media for Social Change](#)

swisspeace

- [Canadian Reconciliation in an International Context](#) – Working Paper 6
- [Center for Peacebuilding \(KOFF\) Newsletter](#) N°130

World Vision International

- [eNews](#)

* PAX is a member of EPLO member organisation Pax Christi International

EPLO PUBLICATIONS

- [Peacebuilding in Ukraine: What Role for the EU?](#) – Civil Society Dialogue Network Discussion Paper N°8 (August 2014)

TRAINING COURSES

**Designing Peacebuilding Programmes:
Improving Sustainability, Impact and Effectiveness in Peacebuilding & Peace Support Operations**

27-31 October 2014
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

(Organiser: [Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania - International Peace and Development Training Centre](#))

Conflict Prevention & Early Warning Course

10-14 November 2014
Basel, Switzerland

(Organiser: [swisspeace](#))

Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict Course

16-21 November 2014
Stadtschlaining, Austria

(Organiser: [Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution](#))

Click [here](#) to visit the 'Training' page of the EPLO website.

JOB VACANCIES AND INTERNSHIPS

There are job vacancies in the following EPLO member organisations:

- [Berghof Foundation](#)
- [Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid \(Cordaid\)](#)
- [Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue \(HD Centre\)](#)
- [Conciliation Resources](#)
- [International Alert](#)
- [International Center for Transitional Justice](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)
- [Oxfam International](#)
- [Saferworld](#)
- [Search for Common Ground](#)
- [World Vision International](#)

There are internship opportunities and/or open voluntary positions in the following EPLO member organisations:

- [Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities](#)
- [Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue \(HD Centre\)](#)
- [Crisis Management Initiative](#)
- [Democratic Progress Institute](#)
- [International Alert](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)
- [Pax Christi International](#)
- [Search for Common Ground](#)
- [swisspeace](#)
- [World Vision International](#)

Click [here](#) to visit the 'Job Vacancies and Internships' page of the EPLO website.

CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE NETWORK

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Instrument for Stability) and managed by EPLO in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Upcoming Events

Member State Meeting

The EU, conflict prevention and peacebuilding: State of play and the role of civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

Thursday 16 October 2014, Vienna, Austria

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

Funding Instruments Meeting

Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace: Consultation on 2015 programming

Friday 17 October 2014, Brussels

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

Policy Meeting

Designing and Supporting National Dialogues: What Role for the EU and Civil Society

Thursday 30 October 2014, Brussels

For more information about this meeting, please contact [Nabila Habbida](#).

Recent Events

Policy Meeting

EUAM Ukraine and Effective Security Sector Reform: Input from Civil Society

Thursday 11 September 2014, Brussels

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

Geographic Meeting

Mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération pour la RDC et la région : quel rôle pour la société civile et pour l'UE ?'

Tuesday 23 September 2014, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

For more information about this meeting, please contact [Anna Penfrat](#).

For more information about these and other CSDN events, click [here](#) to visit the 'Civil Society Dialogue Network' section of the EPLO website.

STRENGTHENING EARLY WARNING AND MOBILISING EARLY ACTION

The project 'Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action' aims to contribute to the establishment, development and reinforcement of early warning mechanisms and increase opportunities for civil society to influence responses to conflict in a timely manner. In particular, through the provision of expert field-based conflict analysis, it aims to identify options for early action to allow the European Union (EU), its Member States and other regional and international actors the EU supports, to anticipate and respond to the risks of outbreak or recurrence of conflict in fragile countries.

This three-year project started in July 2013. It is co-financed by the European Union (EU) under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) and managed by the International Crisis Group and EPLO.

Recent Events

Early Warning Round-table – Whither South Sudan?

Tuesday 23 September 2014, Brussels

For more information about this meeting, please contact [Giulia Pasquinelli](#).

For more information about this and other events in the framework of the 'Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action' project, click [here](#) to visit the dedicated page on the EPLO website.