

Brussels, 6 December 2019

Dear Minister,

Re. Finnish Presidency proposal to reduce the level of funding for Rapid Response Actions in the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument

I am writing to you on behalf of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) with regard to the Finnish Presidency's proposal to make a substantial reduction in the financial envelope for Rapid Response Actions (RRA) in the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

EPLO has been following the negotiations on the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) closely over the past 18 months and we are very concerned about the Finnish Presidency's recent proposal to make a substantial reduction to the financial envelope for RRAs in the NDICI. According to our calculations, if it is adopted in its current form, the Finnish Presidency's proposal would result in a 17% reduction to RRAs (€ 3.54 billion to € 3.02 billion) from the European Commission's (EC) June 2018 proposal. It would also represent a reduction to a level below its equivalent in the current MFF (€ 3.47 billion).

We are particularly concerned about the proposed reduction as we feel that it could have an extremely negative impact on the 'Actions contributing to stability and conflict prevention in situations of urgency, emerging crisis, crisis and post-crisis' component of the RRAs. Given that this component of the RRAs is the proposed successor to the 'Assistance in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis to prevent conflicts' (Article 3) component of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), we fear that a reduction in its funding could seriously curtail the EU's valuable, urgent support for activities such as the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR); mediation, transitional justice, security sector reform (SSR) or women, peace and security after 2020.

I hope that you will take our concerns about the Finnish Presidency proposal into consideration in your discussions on the MFF Negotiating Box next week.

Yours sincerely,



Sonya Reines-Djivanides
EPLO Executive Director