

EPLO activities in EU Member States aimed at strengthening EU peacebuilding policy

Recommendations from Member State meetings

This document summarises the recommendations to the EU, the Cypriot government and civil society which came out of the meeting entitled ‘**Conflict prevention and the EU: what role for Cyprus?**’ which took place in Nicosia on 20 June 2013. For more information, please visit [EPLO's website](#).

The following EU policy areas were discussed during the meeting:

- The role of the EEAS and Cyprus in conflict prevention and peacebuilding
- The EU's role in peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa

This document captures the recommendations according to these policy areas.

1) The role of the EEAS and Cyprus in conflict prevention and peacebuilding

Recommendations to:

The European Union:

- Build on progress made in EU crisis response capacity, peacebuilding and mediation activities;
- Work on mainstreaming and disseminating conflict analysis throughout EU institutions, so that officials include conflict analysis in their work;
- Use the Multi-Annual Financial Framework to push for sufficient financial and human resources for external action, particularly in support of the work of the Division on Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Mediation Instruments;
- Use the mid-term review of the EEAS to strengthen internal resources inside the EEAS and improve co-operation and coordination between different parts of the Service and other institutions.
- Support efforts for political consensus, in addition to providing economic and development assistance towards a ~~peace~~ **peace dividend**;
- Help build a sense of ownership and encourage participation of a diverse range of organisations and groups in the peace process in Cyprus, including women, whose contribution to dialogue is often not encouraged, those affected by displacement, families of missing persons and marginalised groups affected by the conflict such as former combatants;
- Encourage strategic partnerships with local authorities and civil society to help bridge the gaps across the conflict divide;
- Engage further politically with citizens affected by the conflict in Cyprus in order to help remove distrust and fear.

The Cypriot Government:

- Support further the EU's work on conflict prevention and peacebuilding;
- Promote the role of citizens and civil society organisations in the heart of decision-making and the peace process in Cyprus;
- Increase a sense of ownership and enhanced participation of a diverse range of organisations and groups in the peace process in Cyprus, including women, whose contribution to dialogue is often not encouraged, those affected by displacement, families of missing persons and marginalized groups affected by the conflict such as former combatants.
- Use the current opportunities to integrate a peacebuilding perspective into EU policy: EEAS mid-term review, December 2013 European Council summit on CSDP, ongoing Multiannual Financial Framework discussions, development policy reform;
- Support the review of EU development assistance so that it is conflict-sensitive.

Civil society:

- Continue supporting and engaging with the EU and raising awareness of EU policies among citizens;
- Engage more with local population to help the peace process in Cyprus;
- Emphasise a human rights-based approach and continue reclaiming space both in Turkish Cypriot and in Greek Cypriot communities in the respective decision-making process.

2) The EU's role in peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa

Recommendations to:

The EEAS:

- Build on progress made in peacebuilding and mediation activities, as shown by the HRVP's role in support to mediation;
- Provide continued support to both governments and civil society of the MENA region to support the development of accountable institutions;
- Advocate for and host, in all MENA countries, a foreign aid coordination body comprised of all donors in order to plan jointly and synchronise efforts;
- Invest in the development of NGOs rather than project funding.

The European Commission:

- Increase efforts towards donor coordination and synchronise funding mechanisms to allow civil society organisations to plan beyond short term activities.

Civil society:

- Continue stimulating dialogue, creating coalitions and share expertise to push for change.

EPLO's suggestions for follow-up and possible next steps:

EPLO will be taking forward the recommendations related to the EEAS's role in making the EU more effective in peacebuilding in its work on the mid-term review of the EEAS throughout 2013. For more information, please contact Josephine Liebl (jl Liebl@eplo.org).

EPLO will continue to work on ensuring the EU development is conflict-sensitive and that EU development assistance contributes to sustainable peace worldwide. For more information, please contact Ben Moore (bmoore@eplo.org).

Through its various activities, EPLO will continue to work on the relation between civil society and the EU support to institutional reform and on the ways the European Neighbourhood Policy can incentivise peace. For more information, please contact Josephine Liebl (jl Liebl@eplo.org).

EPLO will continue to monitor EU Member States' role in EU policy-making on peace and conflict issues and identify the opportunities for them to make the EU more effective in peacebuilding. For more information, please contact Nabila Habbida (nhabbida@eplo.org).



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

EPLO is grateful for the support of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.