



Civil Society Dialogue Network Geographic Meeting

Nagorno-Karabakh: Continuing EU support for building peace – Gathering civil society input

Tuesday 12 May 2015 (09.00-16.30)

Martin's Brussels EU Hotel
Boulevard Charlemagne / Karel de Grotelaan 80, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh (EPNK) is a major initiative funded by the EU through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP). Since 2010, it has supported 'peacebuilding efforts concerning the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh by facilitating dialogue between civil society, media and policy-makers.'¹

The second phase of the EPNK is coming to an end but the EU is committed to continuing its support to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process. In this context, the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) has been requested to organise a meeting in the framework of the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) with representatives of peacebuilding civil society organisations (CSOs) working in the region.

Objectives

The overall objective of this meeting is to gather analysis and recommendations from civil society on the action required to advance the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process. The outcome of this meeting will feed into the design of future EU assistance to this process.

The specific objectives are:

- To analyse the current context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process
- To share lessons learned from the implementation of projects in the region, in particular the EPNK
- To provide recommendations on what future activities should be envisaged to advance the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process, in particular civil society-led initiatives, which could then be considered for EU support.

Participants

The meeting will bring together 20-30 participants, including up to 20 representatives of peacebuilding CSOs working in the region, and officials from the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Format

The meeting will consist of three sessions of facilitated discussion between CSO representatives and EU officials.

¹ For more information about the EPNK see http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/foraff/133298.pdf and <http://www.epnk.org/>.

AGENDA

08.30 – 09.00	Registration of participants
09.00 – 09.15	<p>Welcome</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sonya Reines-Djivanides – European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Herbert Salber – EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus and for the crisis in Georgia</i></p>
09.15 – 10.45	<p>Session 1: Current context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process</p> <p>The aim of this session is to analyse the current context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process and its impact on peacebuilding activities. It will have a particular focus on recent developments and both the short- and medium-term forecast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>What are the most significant developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process since 2012?</u> • <u>What are the prospects in the short-, medium and long-term?</u> • <u>What role does civil society play in the process?</u> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderator: Sonya Reines-Djivanides, EPLO</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open discussion between CSO representatives and EU officials</p>
10.45 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.15	<p>Session 2: Lessons learned by project implementers, partners and beneficiaries</p> <p>The aim of this session is to share lessons learned from the implementation of projects in the region, in particular the first and second phases of the European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh (EPNK 1 and EPNK 2), but also other non-EU-funded relevant projects. Feedback from local beneficiaries will also be discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>What was the actual contribution of external assistance to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process?</u> • <u>In what areas has this assistance achieved the most / least impact?</u> • <u>Regarding the EU's assistance: What is its specific added value? What are its limitations? How is it complementary to other assistance? How is it perceived?</u> • <u>What are the main challenges to the efficient and effective implementation of projects? What responses are required to address them?</u> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderator: Andrew Lane, Quaker Council for European Affairs & EPLO Steering Committee</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open discussion between CSO representatives and EU officials</p>
12.15 – 13.15	Lunch

13.15 – 16.15	<p>Session 3: Ideas for future support to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process</p> <p>The aim of this session is to present and discuss possible ideas for future support to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process, in particular civil society-led initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>What specific initiatives, including those led by CSOs, should be undertaken?</u> • <u>How could the EU best contribute to supporting such initiatives, and how could the EUSR engage most efficiently?</u> • <u>How can the coordination and complementarity of various initiatives at different levels be best ensured?</u> • <u>How can civil society-led initiatives and Track 1 activities such as the Minsk Process better reinforce each other?</u> <p><i>Moderator: Sonya Reines-Djivanides, EPLO</i></p> <p>Open discussion between CSO representatives and EU officials</p> <p>(NB/ There will be a coffee break midway through this session)</p>
16.15 – 16.30	<p>Conclusions</p> <p><i>Herbert Salber – EUSR for the South Caucasus and for the crisis in Georgia</i></p>

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). It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), a civil society network, in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The second phase of the CSDN will last from 2014 to 2016. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](http://www.eplo.org).

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