

EPLO CONFLICT PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 6 – DECEMBER 2014

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EU UPDATE

Council of the EU

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) met on 21 November, 12 December and 15 December in Brussels.

In November, EU foreign, trade and development ministers adopted conclusions on EU trade policy, review of export control policy and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). They also:

- discussed a draft regulation aimed at updating EU instruments for tackling unfair competition from dumped and subsidised imports
- discussed a proposal for a regulation aimed at improving the conditions under which EU businesses can compete for public contracts in third countries
- discussed trade negotiations under the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Doha Development Agenda (DDA) following on from the 9th WTO ministerial conference (Bali, December 2013)
- took stock of progress made in free trade negotiations with Japan and Vietnam and of the prospects for concluding them in 2015
- approved a letter to the President of the Republic of Fiji informing him that measures under Article 96 of the ACP-EU (Cotonou) Partnership Agreement will be lifted and development co-operation will be resumed after the finalisation of the programme of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF)
- extended the mandate of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) anti-piracy naval mission off the Somali coast (EUNAVFOR Somalia – Operation Atalanta) until December 2016

- adopted positions for the fourth Euro-African ministerial conference on migration and development (27 November, Rome) and for a ministerial conference on the Khartoum process (28 November, Rome).

On 12 December, EU foreign, trade and development ministers adopted conclusions on migration in EU development co-operation, a stronger role of the private sector in development co-operation, the EU action plan on nutrition, and the annual report on the EU's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2013. They also:

- discussed the recently issued synthesis report by the UN Secretary General, and the next steps regarding the post-2015 framework
- exchanged views with Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management and EU Ebola Coordinator Christos Stylianides on medium to long-term support for reconstruction and recovery in the wake of the Ebola epidemic
- received a briefing on ongoing work regarding the EU action plan on gender in development co-operation
- authorised, on behalf of the EU, the signature and provisional application of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and the West African states, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)
- established the EU's position for the first meeting of the EU-Ukraine Association Council (15 December, Brussels)
- confirmed that the FAC has no intention to object to a European Commission (EC) delegated act laying down standards regarding candidate volunteers and EU aid volunteers.

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EU UPDATE (CONTINUED)

On 15 December, EU foreign and defence ministers adopted conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan, Syria; the Southern Mediterranean Investment Initiative (AMICI), and the amendment of the small arms and light weapons (SALW) article in agreements between the EU and third countries. They also:

- confirmed their agreement in principle to the High Representative's (HR) proposal for additional EU restrictive measures in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol
- took note of a report by Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management and EU Ebola Coordinator Christos Stylianides on the state of play on the Ebola epidemic and the EU's response
- extended the implementation period for EU support for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and UN Security Council Resolution 2118 until September 2015
- allocated € 3.5 million to support states in the Sahel region conducting physical security and stockpile management activities to reduce the risk of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons
- allocated € 990,000 for activities in support of the Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation
- endorsed the EU position on the rules of procedure of the EU-Ukraine Association Council and those of the Association Committee and of Subcommittees, the establishment of two subcommittees, and the delegation of certain powers by the Association Council to the Association Committee in its trade configuration
- adopted the EU's position for the Stabilisation and Association Council with Serbia (17 December, Brussels)
- adopted the EU's position for the twelfth meeting of the EU-Morocco Association Council (16 December, Brussels)
- appointed General Mikhail Kostarakos (Greece) as the next Chairman of the EU Military Committee (EUMC)
- approved the operational plan for the CSDP capacity building mission to support the internal security forces in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali).

On 25 November, the Council of the EU extended the suspension of EU restrictive measures specified in the Joint Plan of Action agreed by E3/EU+3 and Iran in November 2013 until June 2015.

On 28 November, the Council of the EU reinforced EU restrictive measures against separatists operating in Eastern Ukraine as requested by the FAC of 17 November.

On 18 December, the Council of the EU imposed substantial additional sanctions on investment, services and trade with Crimea and Sevastopol following a conclusion by the FAC of 17 November.

The General Affairs Council (GAC) met on 16 December in Brussels. EU foreign and European ministers adopted conclusions on the post-2015 agenda, the enlargement and stabilisation and association process, ensuring respect for the rule of law, multi-annual programming and legislative planning, and co-operation between humanitarian aid and civil protection authorities. They also:

- examined draft conclusions for the next European Council meeting (18-19 December, Brussels)

- took stock of the strategic agenda focusing on the chapter on the EU as a strong global actor
- took note of a presidency report summarising the work of the Friends of the Presidency Group on improving the functioning of the EU
- exchanged views on the EC's 2015 work programme
- endorsed the EU's communication priorities for 2015-2016
- adopted the action plan for the European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS).

Click [here](#) to read the FAC conclusions from 21 November, [here](#) to read the FAC conclusions from 12 December, [here](#) to read the FAC conclusions from 15 December, and [here](#) to read the GAC conclusions from 16 December.

Click [here](#) to read the press release about the Iran sanctions, [here](#) to read the press release about the Ukraine sanctions and [here](#) to read the press release about the Crimea and Sevastopol sanctions.

European Council

The European Council met on 18 December in Brussels. EU heads of state and government adopted conclusions on Ukraine.

Click [here](#) to read the European Council conclusions from 18 December.

Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

On 21 November, the FAC extended the EU's anti-piracy naval mission off the Somali coast (EUNAVFOR Somalia – Operation Atalanta) until December 2016.

On 15 December, the FAC appointed General Mikhail Kostarakos as the next chairman of the EUMC. General Kostarakos is currently Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff and will take up his duties from November 2015 for a period of three years.

On 16 December, the GAC extended the mandate of the monitoring mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia) until December 2016.

On 17 December, the Council of the EU extended the police mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan) until December 2016.

On 19 December, the Political and Security Committee (PSC) appointed Kęstutis Jankauskas (Lithuania) as the new head of mission for EUMM Georgia.

Click [here](#) to read the press release about EUNAVFOR Somalia – Operation Atalanta, [here](#) to read the press release about the next chairman of the EUMC, [here](#) to read the press release about the extension of the mandate of EUMM Georgia, [here](#) to read the press release about EUPOL Afghanistan and [here](#) to read the press release about the new head of mission for EUMM Georgia.

European Commission (EC)

On 19 November, the EC published a report on financial instruments supported by the general budget according to Article 140 (8) of the Financial Regulation as at 31 December 2013.

On 27 November, the EC published the Draft General Budget of the EU for the Financial Year 2015, and Draft Amending Budget N°8 to the General Budget 2014.

On 2 December, the EC published the 2013 Annual Report on the Instrument for Stability.

On 4 December, the EC published the Annual Report on the Implementation of the EU-Colombia/Peru Trade Agreement.

On 15 December, the EC published a report on the activities of the EU Platform for Blending in External Cooperation since its establishment until end July 2014.

Click [here](#) to read the documents published by the EC in November and December.

EU UPDATE (CONTINUED)

European Parliament (EP)

The European Parliament (EP) had plenary sessions on 24-27 November and on 15-18 December in Strasbourg.

In November, members adopted resolutions on the EC's impact assessment guidelines, the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, child undernutrition in developing countries, blasphemy laws in Pakistan, the case of accused war criminal Šešelji in Serbia, the kidnapping and mistreatment of women in Iraq, the 2014 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 20) (1-12 December, Lima), and the EU and the global development framework after 2015.

In December, they adopted resolutions on autonomous trade preferences for Moldova, tariff treatment for goods originating from Ecuador, the new general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015, renewing the EU Internal Security Strategy, recognition of Palestine statehood, the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration, the renewal of the agreement on co-operation in science and technology with Ukraine, the persecution of the democratic opposition in Venezuela, the case of Biram Dah Abeid (Mauritania), the case of Dr Amin Mekki Medani (Sudan), and the conclusion of the Association agreement with Georgia.

Click [here](#) to read the texts adopted by the EP in November and December.

UPCOMING EU EVENTS

European Parliament plenary sessions: 12-15 and 28-29 January 2015, and 9-12 and 25-26 February 2015

Foreign Affairs Council: 19 January 2015 and 9 February 2015

European Council: 12-13 February 2015 (Informal meeting of the Heads of State or Government)

EU PRESS RELEASES

President of the European Council

- 3 December 2014 – [Remarks by President Donald Tusk following his meeting with NATO Secretary-General Stoltenberg](#)
- 3 December 2014 – [Statement by President Donald Tusk after his telephone call with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko](#)
- 3 December 2014 – [Statement by President Donald Tusk after his telephone call with China President Xi Jinping](#)
- 1 December 2014 – [Statement by President Donald Tusk after his telephone call with US President Barack Obama](#)
- 1 December 2014 – [Remarks by President Donald Tusk at the handover ceremony with the outgoing President Herman Van Rompuy](#)
- 1 December 2014 – [Remarks by outgoing President Herman Van Rompuy at the handover ceremony with President Donald Tusk](#)
- 25 November 2014 – [Speech by President Herman Van Rompuy: 'Cinq ans à la présidence du Conseil européen'](#)

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

- 22 December 2014 – [Remarks by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini in Baghdad, Iraq](#)
- 22 December 2014 – [Déclaration de la Haute Représentante et Vice-Présidente Federica Mogherini sur les élections présidentielles en Tunisie](#)
- 18 December 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the UN General Assembly adoption of the resolution 'Moratorium on the use of death penalty'](#)
- 18 December 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the occasion of the International Migrants Day](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on US-Cuba relations](#)
- 16 December 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the latest developments in the case of two Italian military personnel in India](#)
- 16 December 2014 – [Declaration by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on behalf of the EU on Libya](#)
- 16 December 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the attack on a school in Peshawar, Pakistan](#)
- 10 December 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi](#)
- 10 December 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the death of Palestinian Minister Abu Ein](#)
- 10 December 2014 – [Declaration by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on behalf of the EU on Human Rights Day](#)
- 9 December 2014 – [Joint statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn on the formation of the new government in Kosovo](#)
- 5 December 2014 – [High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini appoints Catherine Ashton as her Special Advisor for Iran talks](#)
- 5 December 2014 – [Remarks by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini at the end of the visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn](#)
- 4 December 2014 – [High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini meets Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov](#)

EU PRESS RELEASES (CONTINUED)

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (continued)

- 4 December 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini at the first plenary session of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel](#)
- 3 December 2014 – [High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini meets Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al Abadi](#)
- 1 December 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on World Aids Day](#)
- 1 December 2014 – [Joint statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn on the parliamentary elections in Moldova](#)
- 28 November 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini on the attack against the Central Mosque in Kano, Nigeria](#)
- 25 November 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini on the parliamentary elections in the Solomon Islands](#)
- 25 November 2014 – [Déclaration conjointe par la Haute Représentante et Vice-Présidente Federica Mogherini et le Commissaire européen à la politique européenne de voisinage Johannes Hahn sur le premier tour de l'élection présidentielle en Tunisie](#)
- 24 November 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the signature of a 'Treaty on Alliance and Strategic Partnership' between the Russian Federation and Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia](#)
- 23 November 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the killing of 28 civilians in a bus attack in Kenya](#)
- 23 November 2014 – [Déclaration de la Haute Représentante et Vice Présidente Federica Mogherini sur le premier tour des élections présidentielles en Tunisie](#)
- 22 November 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the UN resolution 'Moratorium on the use of death penalty'](#)
- 21 November 2014 – [High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini attends Foreign Affairs Council \(Trade\)](#)
- 20 November 2014 – [Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the negotiations between the E3/EU+3 and Iran on the Iranian nuclear programme](#)

European External Action Service

- 18 December 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the announcement by the FARC of an indefinite unilateral ceasefire](#)
- 18 December 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the abduction of women and children, and killing of at least 32 in Gumsuri village in Borno state, North-eastern Nigeria](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on recent human rights developments in Chechnya](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the judgement of the General Court of the EU on Hamas](#)
- 11 December 2014 – [David Schwendiman nominated as new Lead Prosecutor for the Special Investigative Task Force \(SITF\)](#)
- 9 December 2014 – [33rd EU-China Dialogue on Human Rights](#)
- 9 December 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the arrest of Azerbaijani journalist Khadija Ismayilova](#)
- 6 December 2014 – [Statement of the Spokesperson on the murders of Luke Somers and Pierre Korkie in Yemen](#)
- 5 December 2014 – [Freedom of Expression online and offline: 16th EU-NGO Human Rights Forum](#)
- 5 December 2014 – [First EU-US Cyber Dialogue](#)
- 3 December 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the court rulings in Egypt](#)
- 30 November 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the second round of parliamentary election in Bahrain](#)
- 30 November 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the release of Brigadier General Alzate and two other persons detained by the FARC](#)
- 26 November 2014 – [Déclaration du Porte-parole sur les récents massacres dans la région de Beni, République Démocratique du Congo](#)
- 24 November 2014 – [Joint statement by Catherine Ashton and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif following the talks in Vienna](#)
- 21 November 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the release of Rosa Tuletaeva, activist in Kazakhstan](#)
- 21 November 2014 – [Statement by the Spokesperson on the latest attack in Nigeria](#)

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

Council of the EU

- 17 December 2014 – [Second meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council between the EU and Serbia](#)
- 16 December 2014 – [Fifth meeting of the Accession Conference with Montenegro at Ministerial level – 4 new chapters opened](#)
- 16 December 2014 – [12ème session du Conseil d'Association UE-Maroc](#)
- 15 December 2014 – [First meeting of the Association Council between the EU and Ukraine](#)

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

EU Delegations

- 12 December 2014 – [The UN, EU, and US missions in Lesotho welcome the signing of the electoral pledge and the memorandum of understanding on security co-operation](#)
- 12 December 2014 – [Local EU statement on Ghana's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict](#)
- 2 December 2014 – [Local EU statement on the results of the presidential and parliamentary elections in Namibia](#)
- 2 December 2014 – [Local EU statement on the political situation and upcoming elections in Lesotho](#)
- 26 November 2014 – [Local EU statement on aggravated homosexuality bill in The Gambia](#)

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

EU PRESS RELEASES

European Commission

- 17 December 2014 – [IPA: € 2 billion package to support reforms in the Western Balkans and Turkey in 2014](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [Statement by Vice-President of the European Commission for Budget & Human Resources Kristalina Georgieva following the adoption of the 2015 EU budget and amending budgets for 2014](#)
- 16 December 2014 – [EU-Montenegro: Four chapters of accession negotiations opened](#)
- 15 December 2014 – [European Commission and Italy launch first ever EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis](#)
- 14 December 2014 – [Joint statement on the police raids and arrests of media representatives in Turkey](#)
- 12 December 2014 – [EU acts together to stop Ebola](#)
- 9 December 2014 – [EU steps up assistance for Syrian refugees in Turkey](#)
- 9 December 2014 – [Statement by Vice-President of the European Commission for Budget and Human Resources Kristalina Georgieva on the political agreement on 2015 budget proposal](#)
- 8 December 2014 – [Statement by Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management Christos Stylianides on World Food Programme funding shortages for Syria](#)
- 8 December 2014 – [Commissioner for International Cooperation & Development Neven Mimica announces new support for fighting Ebola during visit to Guinea](#)
- 6 December 2014 – [EU Ebola Response: Member States send additional health personnel to the region](#)
- 4 December 2014 – [EU-Syria: € 180 million to deal with crisis and spill-over in Lebanon and Jordan](#)
- 3 December 2014 – [Speech by Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn: 'The EU delivers when the EU-aspiring countries deliver'](#)
- 3 December 2014 – [Joint statement: EU-US Energy Council](#)
- 1 December 2014 – [Statement by Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn: 'EU will continue to support Ukraine'](#)
- 28 November 2014 – [Budget 2015: Commission makes new proposal to Parliament and Council](#)
- 27 November 2014 – [EU supports decentralisation and regional policy reforms in Ukraine with € 55 million](#)
- 26 November 2014 – [Speech by Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management Christos Stylianides: 'Partnership: cornerstone of Europe's response to humanitarian crises'](#)
- 25 November 2014 – [Joint statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality Věra Jourová, and Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)
- 21 November 2014 – [Speech by Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn: 'EU and Montenegro in partnership to prepare the country for accession'](#)
- 21 November 2014 – [Statement by Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn: 'Accession negotiations with Montenegro remains a priority'](#)
- 20 November 2014 – [Joint statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management Christos Stylianides, and Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality Věra Jourová on the occasion of the Universal Children's Day and the 25th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- 20 November 2014 – [Remarks by Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management Christos Stylianides and Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos at the conclusion of the ARETE 2014 exercise](#)
- 18 November 2014 – [EU is committed to Serbia's European perspective](#)
- 18 November 2014 – [EU-Georgia sign financing agreement in support of regional development](#)

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

European Investment Bank

- 18 December 2014 – [Niger: First water support by EIB in Niger ensures clean water for the capital](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [Support for strategic infrastructure and innovation, new investment in Ukraine and Ebola vaccine research](#)
- 10 December 2014 – [Guinea: EIB backs redevelopment of hydropower plants in Ebola-hit Guinea](#)
- 9 December 2014 – [Turkey: EIB partners with Garanti Bank for SMEs in Turkey](#)
- 9 December 2014 – [India: EIB loan in support of Indian SMEs](#)
- 5 December 2014 – [Armenia: EIB supports implementation of SME projects in Armenia](#)
- 4 December 2014 – [Tunisia: The EIB boosts innovation in Tunisia via support for the private sector](#)
- 4 December 2014 – [Bhutan: EIB and Bhutan sign a Framework Agreement for capital investments](#)
- 3 December 2014 – [East Africa: New EIB engagement to strengthen banking best practice in East Africa](#)
- 1 December 2014 – [Ukraine: EIB President Werner Hoyer visit and EU commitment to supporting Ukraine](#)
- 1 December 2014 – [Ecuador: Ecuador receives EIB loan for public facilities](#)
- 24 November 2014 – [Turkey: € 400 million EIB support for SMEs in Turkey](#)

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

European Parliament

- 18 December 2014 – [European Parliament approves EU-Georgia association deal](#)
- 18 December 2014 – [Human rights: Venezuela: Sudan and Mauritania](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [MEPs critical of breaches of freedom of expression in Turkey](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [Torture: MEPs call for investigation into EU countries' role in CIA practices](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [New EU Security Strategy must tackle emerging threats, MEPs say](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [Migration: MEPs call on EU countries to share responsibility](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [European Parliament resolution on recognition of Palestine statehood](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [Parliament approves EU budgets for 2014 and 2015](#)
- 17 December 2014 – [MEPs vote to open EU market to Moldovan apples, grapes and plums](#)

EU PRESS RELEASES (CONTINUED)

European Parliament (continued)

- 16 December 2014 – [Mixed response to Commission's "more focused" 2015 work programme](#)
- 16 December 2014 – [Andrejs Mamikins: EU association agreement is very important for every Georgian](#)
- 15 December 2014 – [President Schulz shocked at media crackdown in Turkey](#)
- 11 December 2014 – [Juncker discusses Commission's 2015 work programme with political group leaders](#)
- 10 December 2014 – [Elena Valenciano on human rights: "The EU has to set an example"](#)
- 8 December 2014 – [Parliament and Council negotiators agree to EU budget deal](#)
- 8 December 2014 – [Linda McAvan on the European Year of Development and the Ebola outbreak](#)
- 5 December 2014 – [La Via on climate talks: "We need a strong effort from many large players"](#)
- 4 December 2014 – [Human trafficking: 80% of victims in the EU are women and girls](#)
- 3 December 2014 – [Lebanese PM on Syrian refugee crisis: "We have an unprecedented situation"](#)
- 3 December 2014 – [ACP-EU assembly debates terrorism, Ebola, malnutrition and Africa's future](#)
- 2 December 2014 – [EP Committee Chairs and Commissioners discuss legislative priorities for 2015](#)
- 2 December 2014 – [Mikhail Khodorkovsky asks MEPs to back Russia's opposition](#)
- 2 December 2014 – [Foreign Affairs Committee acknowledges Lebanon's efforts to cope with migration](#)
- 2 December 2014 – [Debate on violence against women: We need to act now](#)
- 1 December 2014 – [Africa can do it, says Louis Michel](#)
- 27 November 2014 – [Human rights: Blasphemy in Pakistan; kidnapping in Iraq; war crimes in Serbia](#)
- 26 November 2014 – [Climate change talks: MEPs chart the course from Lima to Paris](#)
- 26 November 2014 – [Sakharov laureate Denis Mukwege: "Women's bodies have become a true battlefield"](#)
- 26 November 2014 – [Debate on whether Palestine should be recognised as a state](#)
- 26 November 2014 – [Parliament marks 25th anniversary of landmark children's rights treaty](#)
- 25 November 2014 – [EU budget: Parliament urges EU member states to pay up and do a deal](#)
- 25 November 2014 – [Denis Mukwege: "Rape is a weapon that dehumanises women"](#)
- 25 November 2014 – [Poverty eradication and human rights in the post-2015 development agenda](#)
- 20 November 2014 – [Fundamental rights conference: "Things are improving"](#)

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

European Court of Auditors

- 11 December 2014 – [EuropeAid's evaluation and results-oriented monitoring systems do not provide adequate information on EU development expenditure results, say EU auditors](#)
- 9 December 2014 – [Speech by President Vítor Caldeira: 'Presentation of the Annual Reports 2013'](#)
- 25 November 2014 – [The EU's Centres of Excellence Initiative: This promising initiative to tackle safety threats should be carefully nurtured](#)
- 25 November 2014 – [Managing risks to good-quality spending is essential to making the best use of EU money, say EU Auditors](#)

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

European Court of Justice

- 17 December 2014 – [The Court annuls, on procedural grounds, the Council measures maintaining Hamas on the European list of terrorist organisations](#)

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

WHO'S WHO IN THE EPLO OFFICE?

Anna Penfrat: Project Officer

Ben Moore: Senior Policy Officer

Catherine Woollard: Executive Director

Chris Glynn-Robinson: Programme Assistant

Ciarán Carey: Policy Officer

Colin Cogitore: Project Assistant

Giulia Pasquinelli: Senior Project Officer

Nabila Habbida: Policy Officer – Member States

Najoua Sbai: Events and Office Coordinator

Sarah Levit-Shore: Senior Associate

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

- [Annual Report 2013](#)

Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (Cordaid)

- [Evaluation interne du projet de financement base sur la performance dans la région de l'Est-Cameroun](#)
- [External Verification of Performance Based Financing in Sierra Leone](#)
- [Newsletter](#)
- [Breaking the Disaster Cycle – Engaging Communities Civil Society and Local Authorities in Resilient Recovery](#)

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre)

- [Une Commission vérité et réconciliation : ni trop tôt, ni trop tard](#)
- [Primer on the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law](#)
- [Indonesia and Jokowi: Right place, right time](#)

Conciliation Resources

- [Submission on the next UK National Security Strategy](#)

Crisis Management Initiative

- [Newsletter](#) – 4/2014

Democratic Progress Institute

- [International Human Rights in Armed Conflicts](#)
- [A Study into the Ways to Better Incorporate Women into Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Through the Implementation of UNSCR 1325](#)

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict

- [Empowerment and Protection: Stories of Human Security](#)
- [Newsletter](#)
- [Transitional Justice in Kenya: A Historical Perspective and a Synopsis of a Troubled Truth and Justice and Reconciliation Commission](#)

International Alert

- [Extracting peace: The management of natural resources as a platform for promoting peace and stability in Liberia](#)
- [Conflict, climate and environment](#)
- [Rebuilding dignified lives: Gender in peacebuilding in Burundi](#)
- [Re-assessing gender norms after conflict: Gender in peacebuilding in Nepal](#)
- [A continent of peace? Addressing rising tensions and insecurity in Europe](#)
- [Trading with neighbours: Understanding Uganda-South Sudan business community trade relations](#)
- [Security threat perceptions in Lebanon](#)
- [Gender, security and SSR in Lebanon](#)

International Center for Transitional Justice

- [After Torture Report, Rights of Victims and Accountability for Perpetrators Must Not Be Denied](#)
- [In Focus](#) N°43
- [World Report](#)

International Crisis Group

- [Tunisia's Elections: Old Wounds, New Fears](#) – Middle East and North Africa Briefing N°44
- [Eastern Ukraine: A Dangerous Winter](#) – Europe Report N°235
- [Congo: Ending the Status Quo](#) – Africa Briefing N°107
- [Guinea's Other Emergency: Organising Elections](#) – Africa Briefing N°106
- [The Central African Republic's Hidden Conflict](#) – Africa Briefing N°105
- [The Day after Tomorrow: Colombia's FARC and the End of the Conflict](#) – Latin America Report N°53
- [Iran Nuclear Talks: The Fog Recedes](#) – Middle East Briefing N°43
- [Sri Lanka's Presidential Election: Risks and Opportunities](#) – Asia Briefing N°145
- [A Coup Ordained? Thailand's Prospects for Stability](#) – Asia Report N°263
- [CrisisWatch](#) N°136
- [Nigeria's Dangerous 2015 Elections: Limiting the Violence](#) – Africa Report N°220
- [Mali: Last Chance in Algiers](#) – Africa Briefing N°104
- [Turkey and the PKK: Saving the Peace Process](#) – Europe Report N°234

Kosovar Center for Security Studies

- [Kosovo Security Barometer](#) – Fourth Edition

Life & Peace Institute

- [Horn of Africa Bulletin](#)
- [Six Years of Sustained Dialogue at Ethiopian Universities](#)

Nonviolent Peaceforce

- [Progress Report 2013-2014](#)

Oxfam International

- [The Indian Ocean Tsunami, 10 Years On: Lessons from the response and ongoing humanitarian funding challenges](#)
- [Quarantines in Sierra Leone: Putting people first in the Ebola crisis](#)
- [Steps Towards a Living Wage in Global Supply Chains](#)
- [A Long Way to Go: The Ebola response in West Africa at the sixty day mark](#)
- [Ebola and the Private Sector: Bolstering the response and West African economies](#)
- [The Impact of Coffee Rust: Assessment of livelihoods and food security of families working in El Salvador's coffee sector](#)
- [From Words to Facts: Acting on climate change in Central America](#)

PUBLICATIONS BY EPLO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS (CONTINUED)

Oxfam International (continued)

- [Breaking the Standoff: Post-2020 climate finance in the Paris agreement](#)
- [Hungry for Commitment: Securing the right to food in a changing climate in southern Africa](#)
- [Behind Closed Doors: The risk of denying women a voice in determining Afghanistan's future](#)
- [Turn the Tide: The G20 must act on rising inequality, starting with fairer global tax reform](#)
- [Can't Afford to Wait: Why Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation plans in Asia are still failing millions of people](#)
- [In the Shadow of the Storm: Getting recovery right one year after typhoon Haiyan](#)

Partners Albania*

- [Newsletter](#) N°55

Pax Christi International

- [Newsletter](#) N°251

PAX**

- [Syria Alert](#) XIV
- [Le potentiel de l'or : Y a-t-il potentiel de conflit dans le secteur aurifère dans la concession 40 en Province Orientale ?](#)
- [Worldwide investments in cluster munitions: a shared responsibility](#) – November 2014 update
- [Syria & Iraq Alert](#) II

Quaker Council for European Affairs

- [Around Europe](#) N°359
- [Pre-trial detention: A challenge for the new Justice Commissioner and for EU Member States](#)

Saferworld

- [No turning back: Mr Ban reaffirms a transformative, pro-peace vision for post-2015](#)
- [Partnerships in Conflict Prevention: China and the UK](#) – Issue 2
- [Newsletter](#)
- [An ill wind: How the sale of Mistral warships to Russia is undermining EU arms transfer controls](#)
- [Envisaging more constructive alternatives to the counter-terror paradigm](#)
- [Masculinities, conflict and peacebuilding: Perspectives on men through a gender lens](#)
- [Strengthening the New Deal from the Bottom Up: Perspectives on the Somali Compact and Somaliland Special Arrangement](#)

Search for Common Ground

- [Burkina Faso: A foreseeable eruption](#)

Swisspeace

- [Center for Peacebuilding \(KOFF\) Newsletter](#) N°133
- [Can Mediation Do Harm? Conflict Sensitivity in International Peace Negotiations](#) – Essential 4/2014
- [Challenges of Peace Research](#) – Working Paper 7/2014

World Vision International

- [eNews](#)
- [Joint statement on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Convention on The Rights of the Child](#)

* Partners Albania is a member of EPLO member organisation Partners for Democratic Change International

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

UPCOMING CIVIL SOCIETY EVENTS

Peaceful responses to the crisis in Ukraine

Wednesday 28 January 2015, Brussels

(Organisers: [European Foundation Centre](#), [International Renaissance Foundation](#) and EPLO)

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

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

WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EPLO?

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).

TRAINING COURSES

CAS National Dialogue & Peace Mediation Course

19-28 January 2015
Basel, Switzerland
(Organiser: [swisspeace](#))

Conflict Analysis to Project Design

23-27 February 2015
Cologne, Germany
(Organiser: [Forum Civil Peace Service – Academy for Conflict Transformation \(forumZFD\)](#))

Cause-and-effect relationships and adaptive strategies in conflict laden contexts

2-6 March
Cologne, Germany
(Organiser: [Forum Civil Peace Service – Academy for Conflict Transformation \(forumZFD\)](#))

CAS Fragility, Conflict & Statebuilding Course

2-11 March 2015
Basel, Switzerland
(Organiser: [swisspeace](#))

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:

- [Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid \(Cordaid\)](#)
- [Conciliation Resources](#)
- [Crisis Management Initiative](#)
- [International Alert](#)
- [International Center for Transitional Justice](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [Interpeace](#)
- [Oxfam International](#)
- [Search for Common Ground](#)
- [swisspeace](#)
- [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 Crisis Group](#)
- [Interpeace](#)
- [Life & Peace Institute](#)
- [Oxfam International](#)
- [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

Policy Meeting (Workshop)
Refreshing the Indicators for the EU's Women, Peace and Security Policy
Wednesday 21 January 2015, Brussels

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

Policy Meeting
Masculinity and Violence: How do gender identities encourage violent conflict?
Thursday 22 January 2015, Brussels

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

Recent Events

Geographic (Early Response) Meeting
Armed violence and capacities for peace in Iraq: Actors, causes, impact and EU responses
Wednesday 3 December 2014, Brussels

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

Policy Meeting
Youth in Conflicts: Agents for peace or recruits for armed groups?
Thursday 11 December 2014, Brussels

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

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 Watch List Briefing
Conflicts to Watch in 2015
Friday 12 December 2014, Brussels

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

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