

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

Recommendations from Member State meeting

This document summarises the recommendations to the EU, the UK government and civil society from the UK which came out of the meeting entitled '**Conflict prevention and the EU: what role for the UK?**' which took place in London on 30 April 2013. For more information, please visit [EPLO's website](#).

The following EU policy areas were discussed during the meeting:

- The role of the EEAS in conflict prevention and peacebuilding
- Supporting conflict prevention and peacebuilding through EU development assistance

This document captures the recommendations according to these policy areas.

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

Recommendations to:

The EEAS:

- Use the mid-term review to look at internal resources inside the EEAS and improve co-operation between different parts of the Service;
- Ensure sufficient financial and human resources for the functioning of the Division on Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Mediation Instruments;
- Review the focus of the Division on Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Mediation Instruments on operational issues to assess whether more work on policy would be necessary;
- Prioritise early warning and early action; continue working on the early warning project piloted in the Sahel with the aim to roll it out in other regions;
- Continue developing regional strategies to ensure consistency of EU external action;
- Work on changing behaviour throughout EU institutions, so that officials become more conflict-savvy and include conflict analysis in their work;
- Strengthen EU Delegations' expertise on conflict issues; provide them with more staff working on the early warning system.

The UK Government:

- 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;
- Contribute to the discussion on the CSDP and ensure that the European Council summit on CSDP is balanced and includes a discussion on civilian CSDP missions, not just on military CSDP;
- Maintain the high level of engagement on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, use the potential of UK's qualified officials and financial resources;
- Continue supporting the EU's work on conflict prevention and peacebuilding;
- Second more officials to the EEAS, especially to support the development of its early warning system;
- Exchange information, share experience and challenges on developing the early warning system – work with the EU in a more collaborative way to ensure greater effectiveness;
- Engage in a serious discussion on the new High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission (HR/VP) and decide what is expected from the next HR/VP;
- Assess bilateral cooperation to ensure greater coherence and effectiveness within the EU; work more with specific Member States that support conflict prevention and peacebuilding,

such as Ireland;

- Continue to bring conflict prevention onto the agenda of relevant working groups in the Council of the EU (most notably CIVCOM and PSC).

Civil society:

- Continue supporting and engaging with the EEAS;
- Join the debate on the new HR/VP and use it as an advocacy opportunity to stress the need for a HR/VP who understands conflict issues;
- Continue convening forums where civil society and policymakers discuss conflict prevention and peacebuilding;
- Keep posing questions about whether EU external action is conflict-sensitive.

2) Supporting conflict prevention and peacebuilding through EU development assistance

Recommendations to:

EU officials:

- Work on better donor coordination and synchronise funding;
- Integrate support to government and civil society – bringing together these two strands is a challenge, but also the way forward in order to support the development of accountable institutions;
- Improve cooperation between DG DEVCO and the EEAS and minimise institutional wrangling; the upcoming communication on the Comprehensive Approach could be used for this purpose;
- Create incentives to put the upcoming Comprehensive Approach into practice and ensure that different EU institutions develop joint approaches to third countries;
- Strengthen financial and human resources in the EU Delegations;
- Continue engagement within the G7+ group of fragile states.

The UK Government:

- Support EU efforts through better exchange of information and joint programming (i.e. joint analysis and division of labour), as well as post-conflict coordination;
- Second more DFID staff to DG DEVCO and the EEAS;
- Support reforming financial regulations for development aid to ensure greater flexibility;
- Acknowledge that the Comprehensive Approach will cover Member States' activities; engage in discussions on the Comprehensive Approach with a view of clarifying the role of Member States;
- Ensure that the next EU Commissioner for Development has a background in development policy;
- Ensure that the EU and the UK continue learning from one another and exchanging information.

Civil society:

- Continue raising awareness on conflict sensitivity;
- Continue stimulating dialogue and creating coalitions to push for change; look for new partners;
- Support the EU in negotiations of post-2015 framework to ensure conflict prevention and peacebuilding approaches are included;
- Develop a position of the peacebuilding community to be able to influence the discussion on the post-2015 framework.

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

EPLO will be taking forward the recommendations related to the EEAS' 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 be providing input to the European Council meeting in December 2013 which will discuss, among other things, the effectiveness, visibility and impact of the CSDP. 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).