

The EU as a peace actor - peacebuilding in the EU and its neighbourhood

Monday, 23 June 2014

Scotland House
Rond-Point Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels

Background:

The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the EU in 2012 highlighted the important role that the EU integration process and the EU itself played in preventing conflicts among and within EU Member States. As most peacebuilding organisations and academic research focuses on the EU's role in preventing conflict and building peace outside the EU, not much attention has been paid to the lessons that can be drawn from the EU as a peace process as well as conflict risks in Europe and how the EU as a peace actor can support peacebuilding in the EU and its neighbourhood.

Objectives:

The aim of the meeting is to:

- Examine the effect European integration has had on transformation of conflict within Europe;
- Discuss how a peacebuilding approach can be applied to contemporary conflict risks in Europe;
- Analyse the role of the EU as a peace actor in its immediate neighbourhood;
- Contribute to EPLO's work planning including a possible programme of work on the EU as a peace actor.

Agenda:

09h00 – 10h30: CSDN Policy Meeting - Global Peace Index 2014: Peace, Institutions and Assessing Conflict Risk (see separate agenda)

10h30	Registration and coffee
11h00	Welcome and opening remarks
11h10	<p>Session 1: The success of the EU as a peace process, contemporary challenges and conflict risks in Europe</p> <p>This session will assess the success of the EU as a peace process, identify challenges to this idea and explore the current conflict risks within Europe including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fragile peace processes • Risk of violence in urban settings • Increased social and economic inequality • Incitement of racial hatred • National identities of minorities in European countries <p>Among the issues to discuss are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have the European integration process and the EU as an actor transformed conflicts within Europe? • Does the idea of the EU as a peace process need to be revived? If so, how? • What are the specific conflict risks in Europe? <p>Contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven Blockmans, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS • Catherine Woollard, Executive Director, EPLO <p>Moderator: Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Director Brussels Headquarters, Search for</p>

	<p>Common Ground</p> <p>Followed by interactive discussion with participants.</p>
13h00	Lunch
13h30	<p>Session 2: Peacebuilding responses to conflict risks in Europe</p> <p>Discussion in working groups on peacebuilding responses to conflict risks in Europe identified in session 1.</p> <p>Working groups should provide answers to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are possible peacebuilding responses to conflict risks in Europe? • What specific activities could civil society (including EPLO) carry out to address conflict risks in Europe? • How can the EU contribute to peacebuilding responses? <p>Working groups should summarise their answers to the questions above on flipcharts that will be made available for all participants to read through during the coffee break</p>
15h00	Coffee
15h30	<p>Session 3: The EU as a peace actor in its neighbourhood</p> <p>This session will explore how the EU can act as a peace actor in its neighbourhood and whether there are lessons of its own integration process that it could apply in its engagement with this region.</p> <p>Among the issues to discuss are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the opportunities and obstacles for the EU to engage as a peace actor in its neighbourhood? • Are there specific elements that the EU should focus on (e.g. support to dialogue and mediation efforts, institutional reform)? • Is regional economic integration promoting peace in other regions of the world? What are the pre-conditions for integration to promote peace? <p>Inputs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalia Mirimanova, Senior Associate, EPLO • Jan Jaap van Oosterzee, Senior Advisor, PAX • Ulrike Hauer, Head of Sector European Neighbourhood Division, EEAS <p>Moderator: Meeri-Maria Jaarva, Crisis Management Initiative</p> <p>Followed by a by interactive discussion with participants.</p>
17h00	End of meeting

This meeting is part of EPLO's EU Member State Advocacy. The purpose of this work is to mobilise support for EU peacebuilding in the EU's Member States given that they remain key decision-makers in EU policy. The work was piloted under the Civil Society Dialogue Network, which is a three-year project co-funded by the European Union (Instrument for Stability) aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and EU policymakers. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).



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