

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY (RoCS)

Partners in European Civilian Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention

RoCS is an ongoing and continuously evolving process started in 2005 and aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of cooperation between the EU and civil society in the field of prevention of violent conflict and crisis management. Its main outcomes include:

- regular **briefings** to the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM) by civil society field experts aimed at exchanging views in relation to the orientations of civilian European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP);
- the development of a structured, balanced and transparent **dialogue** between the EU and civil society.

In Autumn 2005, EPLO joined the first RoCS project prepared by the Finnish Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network (KATU) and Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) in the framework of the 2006 Finnish Presidency of the European Union. RoCS was financed and politically supported by the Finnish Foreign Ministry. The project intended to address the existing gaps in the implementation of the commitments contained in the EU Action Plan for Civilian Aspects of ESDP agreed in 2004 namely that "non-governmental organisation (NGO) experience and early warning capacity are valued by the EU" and that there should be regular dialogue and exchange between the EU and NGOs.

*Partners Apart:
Enhancing Cooperation
between Civil Society and
EU Civilian Crisis Management
in the Framework of ESDP*

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The report "**Partners Apart: Enhancing Cooperation between Civil Society and EU Civilian Crisis Management in the Framework of ESDP**" commissioned to address these issues was discussed at a conference hosted by the Finnish Presidency in September 2006. This conference was aimed at coming forward with a set of recommendations to be agreed by all partners: the Council, the Commission and NGOs. A subset of recommendations- "**Recommendations for Enhancing Cooperation with NGOs and Civil Society Organisations in the Framework of EU Civilian Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention**"- arising from the report were agreed by CIVCOM. Subsequently, these recommendations were endorsed by the Political and Security Committee (PSC) in November 2006 and mentioned in the Finnish Presidency ESDP report.



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Under the German Presidency, a follow-up project was undertaken by EPLO, CMI, the Bertelsmann Stiftung and the German Foreign Ministry. The project "**Partners in Conflict Prevention & Crisis Management: EU and NGO Cooperation**" focused on how to work in fragile situations, specifically with respect to Security Sector Reform and Transitional Justice. The project covered both prevention of violent conflict and crisis management and included activities from first and second pillars. Moreover, within the framework of the project, two case studies, Somalia and Democratic Republic of Congo, were carried out. The project also involved briefings to CIVCOM from civil society field experts aimed at regular exchanges of views in relation to the orientations of civilian ESDP. A final conference concluding the project took place in Berlin in June 2007.



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Besides regular briefings to CIVCOM organised with the rotating Presidencies, a conference with the Slovenian Presidency on "**Increasing the Impact on the Ground – EU-NGO Cooperation in the Thematic Field of Children Affected by Armed Conflict**" took place in Ljubljana in April 2008. A seminar co-organised by EPLO together with the French Presidency on "**Cooperation between the EU and Civil Society Actors in Security Sector Reform**" is foreseen for September 2008.

More information on <http://www.eplo.org/index.php?id=220>