



Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

Strengthening the EU's Role in Mediation: Gathering Civil Society Input

Thursday 20 February 2020

NH Berlaymont Brussels, Boulevard Charlemagne / Karel de Grotelaan 11-19, Brussels

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

In November 2009, the Council of the EU adopted a '[Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities](#)' which has since served as the policy foundation for EU engagement on mediation efforts in conflict-affected countries. On the premises of this document, the EU has established its own mediation support capacity within the European External Action Service (EEAS) alongside other entities and tools (EU Special Representatives, EU Special Envoys, EU Delegations, Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), etc.) and has considerably increased the number of its mediation support activities in conflict-affected contexts.

Ten years after its adoption, the Finnish presidency of the Council of the EU started a process to update this concept, which will continue during the Croatian presidency (January-June 2020) and should be completed under the German presidency (July-December 2020).

Objective

The objective of this CSDN meeting is to bring together a small group of civil society experts and EU officials in a roundtable format to gather analysis and recommendations for the update of the EU concept and discuss the role of the EU in the field of mediation.

Particular attention will be paid to a) the perceptions of the EU as an actor in the field of mediation from the standpoint of local stakeholders, b) the diversity of approaches and understandings of mediation across the EU, and c) building on concrete examples of past mediation processes.

Participants

The meeting will bring together 30-35 participants: EU officials, civil society experts, including academics, and representatives of the Member States holding the rotating presidency of the Council during the update process (Finland, Croatia and Germany).

Format

The meeting will take the form of a day-long roundtable meeting with facilitated interactive sessions in which all participants will be encouraged to provide their analysis and recommendations. At the discretion of the facilitator, participants may be split into small groups at any time during the day. The discussions will take place in English and under the Chatham House rule.

AGENDA

10:45-11:00	Registration and coffee
11:00-11:15	Welcome and objectives of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISP.2, European External Action Service (EEAS) • FPI.2, European Commission • European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)
11:15-12:30	Session 1 - Does the concept meet the needs of EU mediation-in 2020? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the beneficiaries of EU mediation support perceive the EU and its role in mediation? • What are the EU officials' understandings of 'mediation' and of the role of the EU in mediation efforts? • What are the Member States' understandings of 'mediation' of and of the role of the EU in mediation efforts?
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	Session 2 – Taking stock of the EU and mediation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the main evolutions, achievements and challenges in EU support to mediation since the adoption of the concept in 2009? • What has been learnt about whom EU mediators engage with, and on what topics they engage? • What has been learnt about the integration of normative frameworks in EU-supported mediation processes?
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:50	Session 3 – Recommendations for the way forward in strengthening the EU's role in mediation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we imagine developing EU mediation practices for the 2020s? • What are the EU's strengths in the field of mediation? • How can the EU better benefit from MS expertise in mediation? • How can the partnership(s) on mediation between the EU and civil society be enhanced?
16:50-17:00	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Mediation Support Team • EPLO

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 contributing to Stability and Peace). 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 third phase of the CSDN will last from 2017 to 2020. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).