



Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

EU Engagement for Peace: Exchange with Civil Society Partners

Thursday 6 October (09.00–14.00 CEST)

NH Brussels EU Berlaymont
Boulevard Charlemagne 11/19, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Concept note

Background

Russian war against Ukraine is shaping international peace and security at several levels, including the geopolitical and the multilateral, and affects regional and national dynamics, with many fearing further escalation. **The risk of violent conflict is rising in many fragile and conflict-affected countries** around the world due to pressing food insecurity, rising prices, shifting alliances, rampant disinformation and increased pressure on international law and collective security frameworks.

This event will bring together leading civil society experts to discuss some of the main impacts on peace and security dynamics that result from the Russian aggression in Ukraine, and to **recommend ways for the European Union (EU) to maximise its contribution to peace, multilateralism and stability** in the region and globally, using the tools at its disposal within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).

Objectives

The objectives of the meeting will consist in:

- Identifying lessons and recommendations to inform future EU engagements for peace in the region.
- Capturing civil society perspectives on the main elements and risks, and recommendations to inform future EU engagements for peace globally, in the light of the new geopolitical and security situation and threats to peace.

Format

The meeting will take place in Brussels on October 6th. It will bring together approximately 50 participants, including:

- The leaderships of EPLO's member organisations
- Peace and security experts
- Officials from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission (EC)

Outcomes

An internal report summarising the key conclusions and recommendations to the EU will be prepared and distributed following the meeting.

Agenda

08.30 – 09.00	Registration and coffee
09.00 – 09.30	Welcoming remarks and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedro Serrano, Head of Cabinet, HR/VP Josep Borrell • Peter Wagner, Director, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments • Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO
09.30 – 10:00	Introduction of participants
10.00 – 11.00	Session 1: Regional and global analysis of the impact of the Russian war against Ukraine <p>This session will serve to capture civil society perspectives on the regional and global implications of the Russian war against Ukraine. It will focus on different regions (such as the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership, Middle East, Africa, Asia) and multilateral institutions such as the UN and OSCE.</p> <p>In particular, the following questions will be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How may food insecurity, threats to energy supplies and to natural resources, and changing international dynamics increase risks of violent conflict? Which regions may be the most affected and why? • What impact does and will the war have on gender equality, dynamics of in/exclusion, young people and marginalised groups? What roles can peacebuilding play, and which trends should be considered? • What other aspects and consequences should be considered and addressed?
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12.30	Session 2: Recommendations for EU peace engagement <p>This session will serve to identify the key challenges resulting from the Russian war against Ukraine for EU peace policy and engagement in the medium and long terms, and then focus on recommendations for the EU.</p> <p>In particular, the following questions will be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent is the war against Ukraine changing the way the EU should address and react to violent conflict? Have opportunities been missed or new ones created? • What lessons can be identified for EU peace policy and engagement, in particular as regards conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and conflict-sensitive and gender-sensitive reconstruction? • How can EU analytical/forecasting instruments, conflict prevention mechanisms, and peace mediation be reinforced in this regard?
12.30 – 13.00	Closing remarks
13.00 – 14.00	Networking lunch

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 fourth phase of the CSDN will last from 2020 to 2023. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).