

Brussels, 15 July 2020

Dear Members of the European Council,

Re. President Michel's latest proposal for EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027

I am writing to you on behalf of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) with regard to President Michel's latest proposal to make significant cuts to the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) which will be the main programme within Heading 6 (Neighbourhood and the World) of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027.

EPLO is the independent platform of European peacebuilding civil society organisations (CSOs) and our members are important partners for the EU in its efforts to contribute to peace in conflict-affected countries all over the world. We are particularly concerned about a number of elements of the proposal which Mr Michel presented last week, particularly the proposed reductions in the financial envelopes for both the NDICI thematic programmes (TPs) and rapid response actions (RRAs).

According to our calculations, if it is adopted in its current form, Mr Michel's proposal would result in a € 531 million (9%) reduction to the financial envelope for the TPs, including the proposed 'Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention' TP, and a € 705 million (20%) reduction to the financial envelope for the RRAs, including the proposed 'Actions contributing to stability and conflict prevention in situations of urgency, emerging crisis, crisis and post-crisis' component, below the levels which the European Commission (EC) proposed in June 2018.

The TPs and RRAs together account for only 12% of the EC's proposed financial envelope for the NDICI and less than 1% of its proposed amount for the total MFF 2021-2027. However, they are hugely significant in terms of the EU's support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention in its partner countries.

Given the importance of the EU's current contribution to global peacebuilding and the likely increase in the need for peacebuilding support in many partner countries in the coming years, we urge you to take the necessary measures to maintain adequate funding for NDICI TPs and RRAs in the next EU MFF – possibly through reallocating part of the financial envelope for the emerging challenges and priorities cushion – when you discuss Mr Michel's proposal in the upcoming European Council meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Sonya Reines-Djivanides
EPLO Executive Director