Civil Society Dialogue Network Funding Instruments Meeting

Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace

Consultation on 2017 programming

Monday 28 November 2016 (12.00-17.30)

MINUTES

The [final agenda](#) of the meeting is available to download from the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) section of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) website.

1. **Session 1: Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace 2017 programming – Article 5 (Global and trans-regional threats and emerging threats)**

The European Commission (EC) presented the [2016 Annual Action Programme (AAP) for Article 5 (Global and trans-regional and emerging threats) and initial thoughts on the 2017 AAP](#).

Participants asked the following questions:

1. Are there opportunities for the further involvement of INTERPOL in the implementation of actions in support of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation?
2. What are the links between the actions in support of countering terrorism (CT) which are included and/or foreseen under Article 5 and the possible support for preventing violent extremism (PVE) which is foreseen under Article 4?
3. Regarding the possible action document on 'Smuggling of migrants', which countries and/or regions will be prioritised?
4. Are there other possibilities for civil society organisations (CSOs) to collaborate with the EC on the strategic programming and/or implementation of actions under Article 5?
5. There are concerns about the proposal to amend Article 3 (Response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis to prevent conflicts) in order to allow the EU to support what it terms 'Capacity building for security and development' (CBSD). Please provide some information about this proposal.
6. Where will the additional financial resources for CBSD come from?
7. How do all of the various actions relating to the fight against organised crime (OC) fit together?

In response, the EC said:

1. There may be opportunities for INTERPOL and other organisations to engage with the [CBRN risk mitigation centres of excellence](#) (CoE) regional secretariats.

2. It is positive to see the evolution of Article 4 and the agreement on the inclusion of PVE activities. Under Article 5, the focus is on both countering terrorism (CT) and P/CVE. Article 5 activities in the fields of C/PVE have been used to pave the way for larger and more substantial engagement through traditional development programmes.

3. Under the 2016 AAP, the focus is on West Africa and North Africa. New actions to be included in the 2017 AAP are still being explored.

4. The EC conducts identification missions for all actions under Article 5. During these missions it undertakes thorough consultations of all relevant stakeholders, including CSOs in the countries concerned.

5. The EC's proposal for amending the Regulation establishing the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) is intended to complement rather than amend Article 3. It would result in the inclusion of an additional article (Article 3a) and € 100 million in additional resources.

6. The additional resources for CBSD will come from Heading 4 of the EU Budget.

7. It is a challenge to ensure coherence between the various actions relating to the fight against OC. Activities such as the Cocaine Route Monitoring and Support (CORMS) mechanism are helping to increase coherence both within the IcSP and with other EU financing instruments. In this context, it is important to stress the links not only to OC activities but also more broadly to activities in the fields of CT, critical infrastructure protection (CIP) etc.

2. Session 2: Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace 2016 programming – Article 4 (Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness)

The EC presented an update on the 2016 AAP for Article 4 (Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness) and key elements of the draft 2017 AAP.

Participants asked the following questions:

1. Please explain how the EC decides to launch a call for tenders (CfT) and how it decides to launch a call for proposals (CfP).

2. Please provide some information about the proposal to regionalise the management of support provided under the IcSP.

3. Are there any regional priorities for Article 4 and, if so, how are they set?

4. Are EU delegations (EUDs) consulted on Article 4 programming?

5. How can a focus on youth and gender be integrated into Article 4 programming?

6. Regarding the possible pilot project on addressing the different gender dimensions of violent extremism, there are concerns about the instrumentalisation of women. Please provide more information about the possible pilot project.

In response the EC said:

1. The EC launches CfT when it is looking to contract a service provider and CfP when it wants to support actions in specific fields (e.g. providing grants to CSOs working on peacebuilding). It is important to note that CfT and CfP are transparent processes and that CfT are not just limited to companies.

2. The rationale behind the proposal to regionalise the management of support provided under the IcSP is to make it more efficient, especially in the EU's partner countries.

3. The EC proposes a number of priorities according to the IcSP Regulation. The EUDs select their priorities from that list of proposals.

4. The EC consults the EUDs on Article 4 programming, in particular on the 'Support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and peace-building' actions.

5. Youth and gender are both important cross-cutting issues for all Article 4 programming. These two topics have been identified as specific priorities many times in recent years.

6. The EC is already co-operating with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The main component of the pilot project would be research. The idea is to limit it to one or two countries and to involve working with local actors.

3. Session 3: Small group discussions on priority areas for Article 4 in 2017 and beyond

A CSO participant gave a summary of the issues which had been raised in the working group on 'Preventing violent extremism'.

A CSO participant gave a summary of the issues which had been raised in the working group on 'Strengthening early warning and response capacities in-country'.

A CSO participant gave a summary of the issues which had been raised in the working group on 'Strengthening civil society engagement in the security sector'.

A CSO participant gave a summary of the issues which had been raised in the working group on 'Education and conflict'.

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 for Stability). 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 second phase of the CSDN will last from 2014 to 2016. For more information, please visit the EPLO website.