The European Union and Conflict Prevention

European External Action Service
EU external action post-Lisbon

Treaty on European Union

- appoints High Representative (article 18) to conduct common foreign and security policy

- creates European External Action Service (article 27) to assist the High Representative to fulfil mandate

- defines the objectives of the EU’s external action (article 21), including to « preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security »
EU activities in the fields of conflict prevention and peace-building

Council conclusions on conflict prevention, June 2011
- Further strengthen early warning needs
- Effective utilization of conflict risk analysis
- Strengthen mediation capacities
- Re-inforce key partnerships (including UN, OSCE, NATO, World Bank, AU)

EU Concept on Mediation and Dialogue Capacities, November 2009
- Promote the use of mediation as a tool of first response to emerging or on-going crisis; both effective and cost-efficient
- Suggested measures to strengthen EU mediation capacities (strategic actions involving all relevant EU actors; Operational support; Training; Knowledge Management; Outreach: co-operation)
EU activities in the fields of conflict prevention and peace-building

Council conclusions on security and development, November 2007
- Nexus between development and security should inform EU strategies and policies: no sustainable development without peace and security and vice-versa
- Conflict prevention should be pursued as a priority goal

Council conclusions on an EU response to situations of fragility, November 2007
- Focuses on the comprehensive and forward-looking use of development instruments (including those of EU Member States in achieving Millennium Development Goals and preventing/addressing situations of fragility)

- Underlines the relevance of ‘preventive engagement’
- Need to use all conflict prevention instruments at EU’s disposal (political, diplomatic, military, trade, development)

EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict (Gothenberg Programme), 2001
- Conflict prevention cited as one of the main objectives of the EU’s external relations
- Underlines need to: set clear political priorities for preventive actions; improve early warning capacities; enhance instruments for short- and long-term prevention; build effective partnerships
EU activities in the fields of conflict prevention and peace-building

EEAS: conflict prevention and peace-building

- EEAS aims to facilitate more **coherent, multi-dimensional and effective EU external action** and further strengthen the EU’s comprehensive approach to crisis in third countries.

- The importance of ensuring continued focus on conflict prevention and peace-building in the proposed EEAS structures has been underlined by creation of Division for Conflict Prevention, Peace-building and Mediation Instruments within the Directorate for Security Policy and Conflict Prevention.
EU activities in the fields of conflict prevention and peace-building

- Joint EEAS-European Commission Communication on Comprehensive Approach to external crises and conflict, December 2013

Conflict prevention and peace-building are institution-wide issues: close co-operation with crisis management, military, early warning, crisis response services – both in EEAS and European Commission. Comprehensive approach to crisis management links both short-term and long-term interventions, and both security and development aspects.

Main conclusions - develop shared conflict analysis
- define common strategic vision
- focus on prevention
- mobilise different strengths/capacities of EU
- commit to the long term
- link internal/external policies and actions
- make better use of EU Delegations
- work in partnership

Action Plan to be prepared (Council conclusions)
EU activities in the fields of conflict prevention and peace-building

The EU has a range of tools at its disposal to implement the comprehensive approach:

- i) Early warning and conflict assessment: EU Delegation reports, EU Situation Room, Crisis Response Platform (informal)

- ii) Diplomatic measures, including (formal) policy dialogue with third countries, démarches, statements, mediation/facilitation of dialogue, etc.

- iii) Combining external assistance instruments and actions to link relief, rehabilitation and long term development measures: humanitarian aid instrument; geographical development instruments (ENPI, IPA, DCI, EDF); thematic instruments (EIDHR, IcSP); Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) – including CSDP missions.

- New Multi-annual Financial Framework 2014-2020
EU activities in the fields of conflict prevention and peace-building

Conflict Prevention, Peace-building and Mediation Instruments Division provides:
- Operational support to geographic colleagues in the field and at HQ
- Support to early warning mechanisms
- Mediation support capacity
- Conflict risk analysis back-up
- Strategic programming for crisis preparedness component of Instrument for Stability

In close association with
DEVCO Unit on Fragility and Crisis Management and the Stability Instrument Operations Unit in the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments
Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) is the principal EU instrument directly addressing conflict prevention and peace-building issues.

- It implements:
  - i) **short-term crisis response** actions, and
  - ii) **long-term stabilisation measures** relating to trans-regional threats, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis-preparedness capacity-building.

- Total financial reference amount 2014-2020: initially €2.338 billion: of which at least 70% for crisis response; 9% for conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and peace-building; 21% for trans-regional threats.

- IcSP does not fund humanitarian actions (remit of ECHO) nor military actions (remit of CSDP). It is a complementary instrument and intervenes only when other external assistance instruments (IPA, ENPI, DCI or EDF) cannot be mobilised in a timely or appropriate way.
Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace

- The crisis response element of the IcSP is a non-programmable EU external assistance mechanism, which operates with short lead times and under simplified procedures in order to allow for rapid reaction.

- IcSP long-term actions are programmed on an annual basis and are subject to normal decision making procedures (approval by EU Member States in the relevant Management Committee and scrutiny by the European Parliament)

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