

EEAS

European External Action Service



SEAE

Service européen pour l'action extérieure

FACTSHEET

EU MEDIATION SUPPORT TEAM

“Promoting the use of mediation as a tool of first response of the EU to emerging or ongoing crisis situations.”

Mediation is part and parcel of EU preventive diplomacy, and an integral component of the EU's comprehensive toolbox for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Indeed it is hard to find a region of the world today where the EU is not active in promoting peace and security through dialogue and mediation at different levels, in some form or another.

In order to strengthen the EU's capacities and response in these areas, the EEAS since its inception has built up an In-House Mediation Support Team tasked with supporting EU institutions and partners with advice, technical expertise and real-time support before, during and in the aftermath of armed conflicts.



HRVP Mrs. Federica Mogherini in Gaza.

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What does the EU Mediation Support Team Offer?

Based on an initial needs assessment carried out jointly with those requesting our support, our work is customised in each case. This includes:

- 1. Operational Support and Expert Deployments:** our team can deploy at short notice to provide mediation support to EU Delegations and partners. We can also draw on a roster of over 70 additional specialised experts that work with us on a regular basis.
- 2. Coaching and training:** tailored to colleagues' needs, we can propose one-to-one, team and group coachings and trainings across a range of topics relating to peace processes. Our team provides trainings itself, and also works with a number of world-class external trainers and coaches.
- 3. Knowledge management:** effective EU mediation and dialogue work relies on critical and constructive lesson-learning from past engagements. Our team can provide a range of knowledge resources to support the EU's work in support of peace.
- 4. Partnerships and outreach:** the EU has standing partnerships for mediation support with its Member States, the UN, regional organisations (OSCE, AU, ASEAN and others), NGOs and academic institutions that complement and enhance our in-house strengths.

The EU supports peace processes through dialogue and mediation in a number of ways:

- **Direct mediation or facilitation by the EU**, such as the recent Belgrade-Pristina dialogue.
- **Financing mediation** efforts at different levels.
- **Leveraging mediation** through political support.
- **Promoting mediation** and good practice in peace processes.
- **Supporting mediation** efforts of others, for example those of the UN, or the African Union.

In recent years, the EU has been taking an increasingly coordinated and focused approach to dialogue and mediation, in order to assume a more active role internationally in support of peace. The Mediation Support Team forms part of these efforts.

About the EU's dialogue and mediation mandate and approach

The EU understands 'mediation' as a way of assisting negotiations between conflict parties and transforming conflicts with the help of an acceptable third party. The general goal of mediation is to enable parties in conflict to reach agreements they find satisfactory and are willing to implement.

'Dialogue' is an open ended process, aimed at creating a culture of communication that can provide common ground, confidence-building and improved understanding among opposing parties. Both dialogue and mediation can help prevent conflicts and be means towards achieving wider reconciliation and peacebuilding.

EU Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities, 2009

Get in touch, find out more

To find out more, or request our support, you can contact the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Mediation Instruments Division at k2@eeas.europa.eu

To access our factsheet series, and other knowledge resources, visit:

http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/conflict_prevention/index_en.htm

Examples of technical support provided by experts deployed by the Mediation Support Team over the last three years

Mali: to define EU options for support to the dialogue and reconciliation process in the post-crisis context and to conduct an expert workshop with the Commission on Reconciliation and Dialogue.

Myanmar: to provide mediation process expertise to the EU Delegation in Yangon on issues relating to the peace process in this country.

Lebanon: to provide mediation expertise to a set of meetings organised by the Carter Center, on constitutional issues in Syria.

South Sudan: in the context of requests from a local party for EU mediation in support of a dialogue process in Jonglei state including women's groups.

Central African Republic: at the request of the President the team contributed to a workshop to forge a common vision for a future political dialogue and peace process in the country, which fed into a cease-fire agreement signed in Brazzaville.

Ukraine: to provide support to the Ukrainian authorities on national dialogue and inclusive reform processes through the deployment of in-house expertise and external experts.