

EU Mediation Support Team

This factsheet is designed to provide a brief "snapshot" of the EU Mediation Support Team and its services. More information and support on the issues presented are available from the Mediation Support Team of the EEAS K2 Division of Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Mediation Instruments at: K2@eeas.europa.eu

May 2013

Mediation is part of the EU preventive diplomacy and an integral component of the EU's comprehensive toolbox in the area of conflict prevention and peace-building in conflict countries. Indeed it is hard to find a region of the world where the EU is not active to some extent in peace mediation. In some cases the EU is in a lead role (such as the case of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue) but often it is also providing political, technical and financial support to parties in a peace process.

Based on the *Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities* adopted by the Member States in 2009, the EU has developed its own Mediation Support Team (MST)

What does the EU Mediation Support Team offer?

- i) **Coaching and training:** ranging from tailor made on-demand coaching for EEAS staff, EU Special Representatives, Heads of Delegation and their EU Staff to specialized mediation training.
- ii) **Knowledge management:** lessons learned on EU engagement and thematic fact-sheets (e.g. on Armed groups, Transitional Justice, Electoral violence, national dialogue and Women and Gender).
- iii) **Operational support:** assessing opportunities for and design of EU Mediation engagement, deployment of internal and external expertise on a short term basis.

Progress made

Since the start of activities in late 2011, the team has provided support to colleagues working on a wide range of countries and regions including Mali, Myanmar, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, South Caucasus, Central Asia, Western Balkans, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria, Central America etc. More is said about some of these cases in the lessons learnt study and in the evaluatory review available at:

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

The creation of the Mediation Support Team has proved to be a useful complementary instrument that has contributed to strengthening EU expertise in this area.

Definition of Mediation and Dialogue

Mediation is a way of assisting negotiations between conflict parties and transforming conflicts with the support 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, which aims at creating a culture of communication and search of common ground, leading to confidence-building and improved inter-personal understanding among representatives of opposing parties, which, in turn, can help to prevent conflict and be a means in reconciliation and peace-building processes.

(Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities, 2009)



EU celebrating the Myanmar Peace Centre

