

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE COLLEGE



**Course for Political Advisers working in the
wider context of CSDP**

(Activity number 19)

Curriculum

14 February 2012

1. **Aim**

The aim of the course is

- ✓ To enhance core skills and competences of a political adviser working in a CSPD context.
- ✓ To provide the CSDP Missions and Operations as well as other relevant EU instruments with skilled political advisers, capable of contributing to the successful implementation of EU missions and operations mandates in the field.
- ✓ To increase knowledge about the EU as a crisis management actor and to strengthen the European security culture.
- ✓ Provide opportunity for political advisers to network and exchange best practices and lessons learned.

General description and Organisation

2. **Target audience and starting situation.** The participants are persons working as political advisers or aspiring to become so, having appropriate previous background and experience to become political advisers.

When selected to attend the course participants are sent case studies that will be used in the course.

3. **Cognitive Objectives.** At the end of the course the participant will be able to:

- ✓ Explain the role of the EU Institutions and the decision making process for CSDP missions and operations
- ✓ Summarize the main parts of the ESS, in particular the strategic objectives of the EU in the field of CSDP
- ✓ Choose and apply analytical tools for political or conflict analysis
- ✓ Write political reports and speeches.
- ✓ Apply negotiation and mediation techniques
- ✓ Organise or support the coordination process between the mission/operation and other actors in the field
- ✓ Put into practice advising, communication and presentation skills.

4. **Duration.** The complete duration of the course is 5 weeks, consisting of a 4 week IDL preparation phase and a residential module of one week

5. **Methodology.** This course addresses core skills and tasks of political advisers to EU CSDP missions and operations. It relies on a problem-based and interactive methodology, with exercises simulating or practicing political analysis, presentation of policy advice, reporting, speech-writing etc. This also provide for ample opportunities for individual feedback from and discussions with course mentors. Short presentations are given, no longer than 40 minutes, and the focus is on case studies, individual or group exercises.

Overall structure

6. Internet-based Distance Learning (IDL)

Mandatory AKU 1: History of CSDP

AKU 2: European Security Strategy

AKU 3: The role of the EU Institutions

AKU 4: Operational engagement

AKU 6: Decision making for CSDP Missions and Operations

7. **Module Program.** The residential module could have the following theme sequence

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Formal welcome, including introduction to ESDC	Developments in decision making in EU external action	The EU as target of espionage	Communication styles/strategies conflict management	Strategies of conflict management: mediation	Review of draft speeches
The role of the political advisor	Political communication	Effective political reporting	Strategies of conflict management: negotiation	Speech-writing and speech making	Draft individual action plans
Reflections on the role of the political advisor in the context of the evolving EU structures and system	Command and credibility and the social media	Drafting a political report	Advising uphill	Crafting a political speech	Selected speeches
	Political analysis	Review of draft reports	Individual television interviews		Course evaluation and next steps
	Communicating the message	Security: understanding and managing risk			Closing remarks
		Individual TV-interviews			

8. **Materials**

CSDP Handbook

CSDP background on www.iss.europa.eu/

<http://esdc.mil-edu.be>

CSDP newsletter

<http://eeas.europa.eu>

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.aspx?id=261&lang=EN>