



Foreign Policy – Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Mediation

Mediation and Dialogue

Priorities

Mediation is part of the EU preventive diplomacy and a component of the EU's toolbox in the area of conflict prevention and peace-building in conflict countries. It is hard to find a region of the world where the EU is not active to some extent in peace mediation. 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 capacity.

Actors such as the EU High Representative, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU Special Representatives, the EU Delegations and Common Security and Defence Policy missions engage in high level mediation, political facilitation, dialogue processes and confidence building. The EU is also supporting civil society organizations at grassroots levels, in particular through the Instrument for Stability.

The engagement ranges from direct involvement in the mediation to providing political, technical and financial support. To support these efforts a Mediation Support Team has been established at the "Conflict prevention, Peace building and Mediation Instruments K2 Division" within the EEAS.

Top 3 Facts

What does the EU Mediation Support Team offer? Operational support, including provision of expertise to ongoing mediation and dialogue initiatives;

Knowledge management, including assessment of lessons learnt and best practices and, as appropriate, the development of knowledge products for EU practice in the area of mediation;

Capacity-building, including delivering coaching and training to key EU staff in the area of mediation and dialogue;

A comprehensive study on "EU lessons learnt in mediation and dialogue" has been published, as well as several factsheets on thematic mediation-related issues (e.g. transitional justice in the context of peace mediation, national dialogue platforms and infrastructures for peace, women's participation and gender).

Did you know?

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)

During 2013 the Mediation Support Team provided technical support in a range of cases including:

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 Centre, 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;

Burundi, to explore how to support the engagement of Mary Robinson, UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, with women's groups in the Great Lakes peace process.

Catherine Ashton:

Meeting with women from the Syrian civil society: Helga Maria Schmid, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Catherine Ashton and Christian Berger.



Foreign Minister Zarif & EU High Representative Ashton:

Talks between the E3/ EU+3 and Iran, Geneva, 7-8 November 2013.



Belgrade-Pristina dialogue:

Catherine Ashton with PM Ivica Dačić and PM Hashim Thaçi.



Myanmar-EU Task Force:

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi chair the Democratic and Civil Society Forum at the EU-Myanmar Task Force in Yangon, Myanmar.

9th May Europe Day

Main links:

EEAS Conflict Prevention, Peace building and Mediation website:

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

2009 EU Concept on Strengthening Mediation and Dialogue:

http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/conflict_prevention/docs/concept_strengthening_eu_med_en.pdf