



## EU supports UN Mediation efforts

***On 8 December 2011, the European Commission signed an agreement with the UN Department of Political Affairs to cooperate on mediation. The initiative, which is in line with the 2009 “Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities”, is funded via a 2 million EUR grant from the EU under the Instrument for Stability (Peace-building Partnership).***

This project aims at strengthening the UN Department of Political Affairs’ (DPA) capacity to support mediation efforts led by the UN, as well as by regional or sub-regional organizations and Member States. The overarching goal is to promote the prevention and peaceful resolution of disputes and armed conflicts.

The EU will support the establishment of three positions within the Standby Team of Mediation Experts, who are deployable anywhere in the world on 72-hours notice. The actual deployment of these as well as other mediation experts will also be funded by the EU in the context of this agreement. The EU seeks particularly to enhance the participation of women in peace processes, by assigning one of the three Standby Team positions to a gender expert and by developing guidance notes on gender-related aspects of mediation.

Furthermore, the project will support DPA’s development of mediation training materials and programs that will include the participation of EU and other regional and sub-regional organizations.

This project will last two years and will be managed by UN DPA. EEAS headquarters and the European Commission will ensure coherence between this initiative and EU activities as well as that the know-how generated also becomes available to the EU. The EU is keen to play an active role in mediation in cooperation with the UN and the signature of this as well as of another recent agreement with UNDP<sup>1</sup> is to be seen in this perspective.

### **Background**

This activity is funded under the pre- and post- crisis capacity building component of the EU’s Instrument for Stability (IfS). This component – also known as the “Peace-building Partnership” (PbP) – aims to promote and consolidate civilian expertise on peace-building issues. Within the PbP the EU co-operates with a number of implementing partners including with international, regional and sub-regional organizations.

### **For further details, please see:**

[http://eeas.europa.eu/ifs/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/ifs/index_en.htm)

[http://eeas.europa.eu/ifs/pbp\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/ifs/pbp_en.htm)

**Contact for UN DPA: Jared Kotler (kotler@un.org)**

**Contact for the European Commission: Daniele Senzanonna (daniele.senzanonna@ec.europa.eu)**

Date: 19 December 2011

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/ifs/docs/2011\\_12\\_06\\_eu-un\\_coop\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/ifs/docs/2011_12_06_eu-un_coop_en.pdf)