REPORT

1. Presentation of findings from CSDN meeting

Gladys Evangelista explained the background of the Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy meeting of 21 June 2011 saying that it was part of a series of meetings funded under the Instrument for Stability. This is a 3-year project funded by the EC aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and the EU institutions. Kati Leinonen said this had been a very useful meeting, particularly due to the mixture of participants from CSDP missions, EU institutions and civil society from conflict affected countries. She presented some of the key findings from the meeting, in respect to the revision of the 2008 operational document 'Implementation of UNSCR 1325 as reinforced by UNSCR 1820 in the context of ESDP', highlighting particularly:

- Cooperation with the recently established office of the SRSG on sexual violence in armed conflict;
- Need to link to the work on EU and UN indicators on WPS;
- Usefulness of the 2010 ‘Open Days’ with CSO focusing on gender/women’s organisations and of ensuring regular meetings with CSOs;
- Need to rethink the focus of the operational document from ‘women, peace and security’ to ‘gender, peace and security’;
- Importance of paying specific attention the monitoring and reporting arrangements on sexual violence in conflict;
- Importance of consulting women’s groups on wider issues of peace and security;
- The usefulness of having the issue truly led from the top, by a committed and vocal leader;
- Inclusion of men, for example as part of gender task forces, brings about more effectiveness;
Importance to strengthen cooperation between Brussels, CSDP missions/operations and between CSDP missions/operations and EU delegations;
It is better to avoid double-hatting of gender advisers when possible;
Strategic location of gender advisers in the organisation of the mission/operation;
Need to look at the impact of our actions.

2. Presentation of recommendations from the CSDP gender advisors meeting

Catharina Wale Grunditz explained the background to the meeting (including its focus on the revision of the operational document) and presented some of the key recommendations from the mission/operation gender advisors, notably the following:
- Calls for Contributions to CSDP missions/operations and additional efforts should explicitly facilitate and encourage the recruitment of women in key positions;
- EEAS could provide a compilation of good practices for a sound gender mainstreaming structure in CSDP missions and operations;
- Gender training should be compulsory for Heads of Mission and Commanders;
- Gender teams in CSDP missions and operations should also include male staff members in order to better address different aspects and focus groups;
- Further instructions, monitoring and follow-up by the EEAS regarding the reporting on issues and indicators linked to relevant UNSCRs in regular mission/operation reports;
- A special focus on sexual and gender-based violence is necessary and specific guidance here could be useful;
- Gender Advisors should have a position at strategic level in missions/operations;
- Gender and human rights advisors should have direct and thematic support from the EEAS human rights and gender experts.

3. Presentation and discussion of the revision of the 2008 Operational Document on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in the context of E/CSDP

Catharina Wale Grunditz presented the draft working document, being a preliminary basis for the revision of the operational document 'Implementation of UNSCR 1325 as reinforced by UNSCR 1820 in the context of ESDP'. She explained the process, highlighting that the role of the TF was to act as a pool of expertise that would feed its recommendations into the first draft that would then, after approval by the relevant services, enter into the normal Council work flow. The Informal Task Force discussed the news introduced in the draft, in focusing on the suggestions to employ the title 'Gender, peace and security' to mark the clear intention to make sure that both men and women are concerned with the issues dealt with, and the concrete review of the check list with regard to the practical implementation, taking into account new developments and further lessons and practices identified (since 2008).

4. Tour de table of ongoing or planned initiatives (including CSDP training packages, EU-AU mapping seminar, joint COHOM/CIVCOM/PMG, NL/ES training, Country strategies coverage…)

The following initiatives were presented:
- Kati Leinonen said that the CSDP training packages would be finalised before the end of the year, including the one on gender. She said that the EU-AU human rights dialogue had decided that a mapping seminar on the implementation of Resolution 1325 on both continents should be organised, this could take place in 2012 if funding could be secured and if human resources in the HR unit are sufficient to organize it.
She welcomed interested Member States to take an active part in this meeting. To this point, Guy Banim commented that link should be made with the EU-AU Partnership on Peace and Security.

- Aymeric Dupont said that in end 2011 or early 2012 COHOM would invite CIVCOM and PMG to a joint meeting on human rights and gender mainstreaming in CSDP. The idea would be to invite a human rights or gender adviser from a CSDP mission to address the meeting, which would also discuss the lessons and best practices document as well as the report on EU WPS indicators. Preparations are ongoing.

- Guy Banim reported that work was being undertaken with regard to support to the UN mediation and dialogue capacity, in addition the intention was to raise EEAS capacity on mediation, gender aspects were included. EEAS was re-establishing the ‘Conflict prevention group’, this could be another useful arena for discussions on 1325.

- Gladys Evangelista informed about several initiatives under the Instrument for Stability: call for proposals (8 m €) managed by delegations in 6 countries including on gender -- selection of projects was ongoing; another call for 5 m € would be launched in 2012 in selected countries (selection was ongoing); pilot contracts on projects were currently in the pipeline for being finalised on women’s participation with UN Women and on mediation. In addition, action under the crisis response was starting with Kvinna till Kvinna, focusing on women’s participation in the Arab and Russian-speaking world.

- Jesus Ignacio Gil Ruiz voiced Spain’s concern about the continuation of the Task Force after the departure of Kati Leinonen. He informed about the training course ‘A Comprehensive Approach to Gender in Operations’ that would take place 28/11-2/12 in the Netherlands. The first such a training had taken place in Madrid in June 2011 and been very succesful.

- Dagmar Schumacher said that the SG report on WPS would shortly be available and considered by the SC in the end of October. She presented an idea to organise an EU-UN meeting, possibly a teleconference, on the respective indicators and how to find synergies. The UN had again conducted Open Days in the summer period and UN Women would shortly share the report thereof. On 18 July the CEDAW committee had worked on guidance to the State parties to CEDAW.

- Paddy Buckenham said that Ireland had adopted its NAP on 1325 in July.

- Kaat de Nijs mentioned the 19 September meeting in the margins of UNGA on women’s political participation and the related resolution the US was introducing at the UNGA 3rd committee. She further related that Belgium planned to revise its NAP on 1325 on 12/12/11 (she welcomed everybody to participate), the event would be followed by a prize ‘Look for your Peace Woman’.

5. Organisation of the Task Force

Kati Leinonen said that after her departure for the EU delegation in Caracas on 14 October, Aymeric Dupont would replace her on UNSCR 1325 and in the future co-chair the meetings with Catharina Wale Grunditz from the CMPD. She added that the fact that the human rights policy guidelines unit had lost 25% of its staff (with the departure of two AD officials) with no immediate replacement would certainly affect the work as colleagues taking over the files had already a heavy workload. She stressed the need to keep the TF meetings as focused on concrete results as possible. A next meeting before the end of the year could for example analyse the standard CSDP training element on gender, currently being produced by Sweden (Folke Bernadotte).