



ISP

Integrated Approach for Security and Peace Directorate

EU Peace Mediation in a Nutshell

The EU engages in peace mediation, as part of preventive diplomacy, as a key tool of conflict prevention and resolution globally. Peace mediation covers a wide range of activities, including facilitation of community level dialogues, supporting local cease fire negotiations and mediating between leaders of conflict parties. The overall objective is to prevent disputes from developing into violent conflict and to avoid further escalation of conflicts.

Since the adoption of the 2009 [‘EU Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities’](#), the EU has become more active, coordinated and focused in peace mediation. The EU has, during the past decade, assumed a role in most national peace processes (examples here below).

To match new realities, a [new Concept on EU Peace Mediation](#) was adopted together with [Council Conclusions](#) in December 2020. First ever [EEAS Guidelines on Peace Mediation](#) accompany the new Concept and support EU mediators and implementing partners in translating EU mediation principles in practise. These documents provide the EU with a solid basis for using peace mediation as a tool of first instance.

The new Concept sets an ambitious stance for the EU in global peace mediation. It stresses the EU’s role as a value-based actor: its engagements are based on the core values of inclusion, human dignity, gender equality, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect and promotion of human rights. An evidence-based approach, climate awareness, multilateralism and partnerships are further key guiding principles of EU peace mediation.

The EU engages in mediation where it has comparative advantage in relation to other mediation actors, where there are entry points for EU mediation and where it can make a useful contribution to sustained peace. Throughout its engagements, the EU strives to ensure meaningful involvement of all levels and segments of

society, ranging from political leaders to civil society, religious groups, local communities, including women and young generations.

EU Mediation Roles and Tools

The EU engages in a range of mediation roles to support peace processes:

- **Leading mediation:** Acting as a third party, engaging the leadership of a country and the representatives of conflict parties.
- **Facilitating mediation and opening dialogue spaces.**
- **Accompanying mediation:** Creating ground for talks, promoting inclusive processes or witnessing proceedings, assuming guarantor roles.
- **Coordinating mediation:** Contributing to a cohesive and inclusive process.
- **Supporting mediation efforts of others:** Capacity building, training, logistical support and expertise.
- **Leveraging mediation** through diplomatic actions and/or economic credence.
- **Supporting mediation outcomes:** Using political, diplomatic, trade, cooperation and civilian and military crisis management to support parties in implementing agreements.
- **Funding mediation:** Financial support to formal, informal and grassroots mediation processes and to the extended mediation community.
- **Promoting mediation** and good practices in peace processes.

The EEAS **Mediation Support Team (MST)**, within the ISP.2 Division, is operational since 2011. It provides advice on mediation process design and technical expertise on the key aspects of mediation and dialogue. The EEAS geographic divisions, EUSRs and EU Delegations can draw on the MST for advice and support

with regard to assessing mediation opportunities, supporting existing mediation efforts or building mediation capacity.

In June 2020, the EEAS established a **Pool of EU Peace Mediators** to strengthen the EU's mediation outreach and operational capacity. Its members hail from all EEAS geographic Managing Directorates and combine geographic and thematic expertise.

An **EEAS Mediation Task Force** at Managing Director level provides political oversight of EU mediation opportunities and assignments and oversees the implementation of actions in selected priority countries.

ISP.2 can also draw from a pool of external mediation experts to support EU staff. Furthermore, the **European Resources for Mediation Support**-project (ERMES), managed by FPI, allows the provision of assistance to conflict parties, third party mediators and groups participating in inclusive peace processes on short notice.

Mediation Support Team in Action

How do you engage with radical groups, how to support a National Dialogue process, what are key elements of a peace process and how to sequence them, how to engage best with the UN on these issues? These are some of the questions MST can respond to. Some examples of MST activities include:

1. **Operational Support and Expert Deployments:** the MST can be deployed at short notice to provide mediation support to EU Delegations, EUSR offices, CSDP missions or other relevant EU actors. It can also draw on a facility that has access to over 70 specialised external experts.

2. **Coaching and training:** the MST can deliver one-to-one, team and group coaching and training across a range of topics related to peace processes and mediation.

3. **Knowledge management:** EU mediation work relies on critical and constructive lesson-learning from past engagements and thematic expertise and guidance on issues such as power sharing or ceasefire mechanisms.

4. **Partnerships and outreach:** The EU collaborates closely with the UN on mediation, co-financing the UN Standby Team of Mediation Experts and drawing on UN Mediation Experts for specific assignments. Working together on specific processes, such as the UN Special Envoy for Syria or the Special Envoy for Yemen, brings an added value to peace processes. Furthermore, the EEAS has standing partnerships on mediation support with the EU Member States, regional organisations (including OSCE, AU and ASEAN), NGOs and academic institutions.

EU Mediation Support Examples

- **Afghanistan:** In 2019 the EU launched the Afghanistan Peace Support Mechanism with its implementing partner Sida. It contributes to the preparation and implementation of an Afghan-led and -owned peace process, responsive to the needs of all Afghans, including women and youth, in Afghanistan and abroad. It focuses on confidence-building, connecting stakeholders, peace education and technical, thematic and logistical support to peace efforts.
- **Central African Republic:** The EU provided mediation support throughout the negotiations leading to the peace agreement signed in February 2019. It also advised on the coordination of the post agreement mediation support. The EU follows up closely with ECCAS and other partners to bring the peace agreement back on track.
- **Georgia:** The EU is a mediator of the Six Point Plan between Russia and Georgia and co-facilitator of the Geneva International Discussions. The MST has provided training and coaching and organised workshops with the UN and OSCE, as well as with the EUMM.
- **The Belgrade-Pristina dialogue:** is an example of direct "at the table" EU mediation. The EEAS led the first, so-called technical phase, between 2011 and 2012. Nine agreements were brokered during this phase and working groups were created for every issue to follow implementation. The EU-lead negotiations picked up again in 2020.
- **Mali:** The EU has acted as guarantor of the Algiers agreement, and supports its implementation through political facilitation, monitoring and funding. It supports community mediation and dialogues, i.a. around disputes related to natural resources.
- **Philippines:** The EU enhanced its engagement in Mindanao by supporting the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, including capacity building in the transition to the future Bangsamoro administration as well as continued support to inter-Bangsamoro dialogue.
- **Syria:** The EU works to ensure the continuation of the peace process through the Syria Peace Initiative. It contributes to enhancing the Syrian moderate opposition's capacity and opportunities to engage in the UN-led peace process, including by enhancing the role of Syrian women, i.a. through the Gaziantep Women Platform.
- **Yemen:** The MST supports coordination with the UN at different levels, advises on economic peace process issues and has provided advice on ceasefire and de-escalation mechanisms. The EU provides for a digital ceasefire monitoring tool and co-facilitates a technical ceasefire working group. It promotes inclusive approaches to peace-making through the steering of several Track II (Regional power figures, e.g. religious dignitaries, academics, intellectuals) initiatives in the country.

The EU Mediation Support Team (ISP.2):

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