

# EPLO CONFLICT PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

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## EU UPDATE

### Council of the EU

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) met on 18 and 21 October in Luxembourg. On 18 October, EU trade ministers:

- took stock of preparations regarding the trade aspects of the EU's association agreements with Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine ahead of the upcoming Eastern Partnership summit (28-29 November, Vilnius)
- adopted a mandate for the European Commission (EC) to negotiate an investment agreement with China on behalf of the EU
- adopted an updated mandate allowing the EC to open negotiations on investment protection provisions with countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as part of ongoing free trade negotiations
- discussed a draft regulation aimed at establishing a legal and financial framework for investor-state dispute settlement proceedings, as part of a broader framework for foreign direct investment
- received a briefing from the EC on preparations and prospects for the ninth World Trade Organisation ministerial conference (3-6 December, Bali, Indonesia).

On 21 October, EU foreign ministers adopted conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Syria, Yemen, the European Court of Auditors' special report on EU cooperation with Egypt in the field of governance, and ensuring the continued pursuit of an effective EU policy on the new challenges presented by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. They also:

- took stock of developments in the EU's Eastern Partnership in preparation for the upcoming summit
- discussed the situation in Egypt
- exchanged views on Libya

- discussed ongoing reforms in Myanmar
- received a briefing on the preparations for the meeting of the EU-Myanmar Task Force (13-15 November, Yangon and Naypyidaw)
- adopted the EU position for the first meeting of the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Council (21 October, Luxembourg)
- extended the EU restrictive measures against the Republic of Guinea until 27 October 2014
- allocated € 8 million from the EU budget to support the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the areas of nuclear security and verification
- adopted the second part of the EU annual report on human rights and democracy.

The General Affairs Council (GAC) met on 30 September in Brussels and on 22 October in Luxembourg.

In September, EU foreign and European ministers noted the report on the implementation of the obligations under the Convention on Nuclear Safety which will be examined at the next review meeting (24 March – 4 April 2014).

In October, they agreed to confirm the EU common position for the opening of chapter 22 on regional policy and coordination of structural instruments with Turkey, and to convene an accession conference at ministerial level (5 November, Brussels). They also gave a mandate to the Presidency to negotiate on the basis of the EU-Central Asia Action Plan on Drugs (2014-2020) and to endorse it during the EU-Central Asia Senior Officials' meeting (12 November, Brussels).

*Click [here](#) to read the FAC conclusions from 18 October, [here](#) to read the FAC conclusions from 21 October, [here](#) to read the GAC conclusions from 30 September, and [here](#) to read the GAC conclusions from 22 October.*

## EU UPDATE (CONTINUED)

### European Council

The European Council met on 24-25 October in Brussels. EU heads of state and government looked ahead to the upcoming Eastern Partnership summit.

Click [here](#) to read the European Council conclusions.

### Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

On 23 September, the Council of the EU extended the two EU missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): the EU police mission (EUPOL RD Congo) and the EU advisory and assistance mission for security reform (EUSEC RD Congo). It also announced that this would be the last mandate for both missions and that they would hand over their activities by 30 September 2014.

Click [here](#) to read the press release about the CSDP missions in the DRC.

### European Commission (EC)

On 25 September, the EC published the Annual Report on the European Union's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Policies and their Implementation in 2012.

On 30 September, the EC and the European External Action Service (EEAS) published a joint proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 147/2003 concerning restrictive measures in respect of Somalia, and a joint proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 267/2012 concerning restrictive measures against Iran.

On 7 October, the EC published a communication concerning the position of the Council at first reading on the adoption of a

decision of the European Parliament and of the Council providing macro-financial assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic.

On 16 October, the EC published a report on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items, and a communication on 'Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2013-2014'.

Click [here](#) to read the documents which were published by the EC in September and October.

### European Parliament (EP)

The European Parliament had plenary sessions on 7-10 and 21-24 October in Strasbourg.

Members adopted resolutions on genocide, corruption in the public and private sectors and its impact on human rights in third countries, EU and Member State measures to tackle the flow of refugees as a result of the conflict in Syria, recent violence in Iraq, clashes in Sudan and subsequent media censorship, recent cases of violence and persecution against Christians in Iran, Pakistan and Syria; caste-based discrimination, alleged transportation and illegal detention of prisoners in European countries by the CIA, the participation of Jordan in EU programmes, EU pre-accession funds, local authorities and civil society, human rights in the Sahel region, macro-financial assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic, the European Neighbourhood Policy, and the annual report on the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

Click [here](#) to read the texts which were adopted by the EP in October.

## UPCOMING CIVIL SOCIETY EVENTS

### Post-2015: Objective Peace

Tuesday 26 November 2013, Brussels

(Organisers: Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (Cordaid) & Saferworld)

For more information about this event, please visit the [European Development Days website](#).

### Young Voices for Inclusive Governance

Wednesday 27 November 2013, Brussels

(Organisers: European Youth Forum, Plan EU Office, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages International and World Vision International)

For more information about this event, please visit the [European Development Days website](#).

### Tackling Conflict and Violence Post-2015

Wednesday 27 November 2013, Brussels

(Organiser: Saferworld)

For more information about this event, please visit the [European Development Days website](#).

### The Situation of Syrian Refugees in the Neighbouring Countries: What Role Should the European Union Play?

Wednesday 27 November 2013, Brussels

(Organisers: Heinrich Böll Stiftung and IKV Pax Christi)

For more information about this event, please contact [Marianne Ebertowski](#).

### Human security as a tool for a comprehensive approach to human rights and security linkages in EU Foreign policy

Friday 6 December 2013, The Hague

(Organisers: Centre for the Law of EU External Relations and the T.M.C. Asser Instituut)

For more information about this event, please contact the [Centre for the Law of EU External Relations](#).

## EU PRESS RELEASES

### President of the European Council

- 11 October 2013 – [President Herman Van Rompuy congratulates the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, winner of the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize](#)
- 10 October 2013 – [Speech by President Herman Van Rompuy at the French National Assembly](#)
- 25 September 2013 – [Speech by President Herman Van Rompuy to the General Assembly of the United Nations](#)
- 23 September 2013 – [Joint message by President Herman Van Rompuy and President José Manuel Barroso to the President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta on the terrorist attack in Nairobi](#)
- 19 September 2013 – [Déclaration présidentielle conjointe à l'occasion de l'investiture du Président de la République du Mali Ibrahim Boubakar Keïta](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the President of the European Council.

### High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

- 31 October 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton ahead of Kosovo elections](#)
- 31 October 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the latest Israeli announcement of settlement plans](#)
- 28 October 2013 – [Déclaration du porte-parole de Catherine Ashton, Haute Représentante de l'UE, suite au premier tour des élections présidentielles à Madagascar le 25 octobre 2013](#)
- 28 October 2013 – [Joint statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on the results of Georgia's presidential election](#)
- 26 October 2013 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on renewed fighting in eastern DRC](#)
- 23 October 2013 – [Speech by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the latest developments in the Common Foreign Security and Defence Policy](#)
- 22 October 2013 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the threats to the stabilisation process in Mozambique](#)
- 21 October 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the attack during a Coptic Wedding in Cairo](#)
- 20 October 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the action by the Maldivian Police to halt the presidential elections on 19 October 2013](#)
- 20 October 2013 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the release of Lebanese hostages and Turkish pilots](#)
- 20 October 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton regarding the case of missing of Chinese Human Rights defender, Ms Cao Shunli](#)
- 16 October 2013 – [Remarks by High Representative Catherine Ashton following the meeting of the E3/EU+3 with Iran](#)
- 16 October 2013 – [Joint statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton and Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif](#)
- 15 October 2013 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the deadly attacks against UNAMID peacekeepers](#)
- 15 October 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on her final report on the CSDP](#)
- 11 October 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the award of the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons](#)
- 10 October 2013 – [Statement by the spokespersons of High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on presidential elections in Azerbaijan](#)
- 10 October 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton following the release of Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan](#)
- 10 October 2013 – [Joint declaration by Secretary General of the Council Europe Thorbjørn Jagland and High Representative Catherine Ashton on the European and World Day against the Death Penalty](#)
- 8 October 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the Supreme Court's decision to annul the first round of presidential elections in the Maldives](#)
- 8 October 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the recent violence in Egypt](#)
- 3 October 2013 – [Statement by the spokespersons of High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on Azerbaijan](#)
- 3 October 2013 – [Remarks by High Representative Catherine Ashton at the end of her visit to Cairo](#)
- 1 October 2013 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the placement of obstacles along administrative boundary lines in Georgia](#)
- 30 September 2013 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the current protests in Sudan](#)
- 29 September 2013 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on terrorist attacks in Nigeria](#)
- 28 September 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the adoption of the UNSC resolution on Syrian chemical weapons](#)
- 27 September 2013 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the sentencing of Mr Charles Taylor](#)
- 26 September 2013 – [Remarks by High Representative Catherine Ashton following the meeting of E3+3 Foreign Ministers with the Iranian Foreign Minister](#)
- 26 September 2013 – [Remarks by High Representative Catherine Ashton following the high-level meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee](#)
- 24 September 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the postponement of the second round of presidential elections in the Maldives](#)
- 23 September 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the latest attacks in Iraq](#)
- 23 September 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton condemning the attack on the Christian community in Peshawar, Pakistan](#)
- 22 September 2013 – [Statement by the spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the abduction and killing of an IDF soldier](#)
- 22 September 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the attack in Nairobi](#)
- 21 September 2013 – [Statement by the spokespersons of High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva on the confiscation of humanitarian assistance by Israeli security forces](#)
- 20 September 2013 – [Déclaration du porte-parole de la Haute Représentante, Catherine Ashton, sur le processus électoral en République de Guinée](#)
- 19 September 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the liberation of Nasrin Sotoudeh and other prisoners of conscience in Iran](#)
- 19 September 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the killing of a EULEX staff member](#)

## EU PRESS RELEASES (CONTINUED)

### High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – continued

- 19 September 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on political prisoners in Eritrea](#)  
17 September 2013 – [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the publication of the report by the UN investigation mission on chemical weapons in Syria](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

### European External Action Service

- 21 October 2013 – [International Team of Special Envoys for the Great Lakes Joint Statement on Kampala Dialogue](#)  
16 October 2013 – [Mali: l'UE fait le bilan de l'observation des élections présidentielles et lance une mission d'observation pour les législatives](#)  
15 October 2013 – [Speech by Chief Operating Officer David O'Sullivan: 'The EU and ASEAN: Prospects for future cooperation'](#)  
9 October 2013 – [EU and Republic of Korea hold first human rights consultation](#)  
8 October 2013 – [EU to observe elections in Nepal](#)  
4 October 2013 – [EU to observe general elections in the Republic of Honduras](#)  
3 October 2013 – [Republic of Madagascar: the EU to observe the presidential elections](#)  
19 September 2013 – [EU to deploy EOM for municipal elections in Kosovo](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the Council of the EU.

### Council of the EU

- 29 October 2013 – [EU sanctions against Belarus extended](#)  
22 October 2013 – [The Council opens a new chapter in accession negotiations with Turkey](#)  
21 October 2013 – [Joint Press Release: First meeting Stabilisation and Association Council between Serbia and the EU](#)  
1 October 2013 – [Third meeting of the Cooperation Council between the European Union and the Republic of Tajikistan](#)  
27 September 2013 – [Statement by the Middle East Quartet](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the Council of the EU.

### EU Delegations

- 28 October 2013 – [Local EU statement on the verdict of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic to uphold the decisions not to investigate the complaints of torture made by Mr Azimjon Askarov](#)  
25 October 2013 – [Local EU statement on Supreme Court decision to annul a death penalty in Belarus](#)  
24 October 2013 – [Local EU statement on the attacks in Twic East County, South Sudan](#)  
10 October 2013 – [Local EU statement in Bosnia Herzegovina on the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty](#)  
10 October 2013 – [Local EU-UNICEF statement in Yemen on the occasion of the World and European Day against the Death Penalty](#)  
4 October 2013 – [Local EU statement on closure of newspapers in Tanzania](#)  
4 October 2013 – [The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the execution and death sentence issued in Gaza](#)  
27 September 2013 – [Local EU statement on the construction of the Separation Barrier in the Cremisan Valley \(Beit Jala\)](#)  
23 September 2013 – [Local EU statement on new legislature in Cambodia](#)  
20 September 2013 – [Local EU statement on presidential elections in the Maldives](#)  
19 September 2013 – [Local EU statement following the latest developments in Bahrain](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from EU delegations.

### European Commission (EC)

- 31 October 2013 – [Victims of earthquake in the Philippines to receive humanitarian assistance from the EU](#)  
31 October 2013 – [Additional EU funding in support of the normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia](#)  
29 October 2013 – [Further € 200 million from the EIB for strengthening Istanbul's resilience to earthquakes](#)  
29 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Štefan Füle: 'ENP – Engaging with civil society on the transformation in the neighbourhood'](#)  
29 October 2013 – [EU confirms its support for West Africa's development and integration](#)  
28 October 2013 – [Syria crisis: EU delivers on its pledges and mobilises another € 85 million for Syria and Jordan](#)  
26 October 2013 – [Statement by Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva on suspected polio cases in Syria](#)  
24 October 2013 – [Civil society organisations, a key role to play in Africa-EU relations](#)  
23 October 2013 – [Victims of Cyclone Phailin to receive additional € 3 million in assistance from the EU](#)  
22 October 2013 – [Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Georgia and Moldova join Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership](#)  
22 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Štefan Füle: 'Implementation of ENP \(package 2013\)'](#)  
21 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Štefan Füle: 'Additional support for energy efficiency and environment in Armenia, Moldova and Georgia'](#)  
16 October 2013 – [Mali: The EU takes stock of the observation of the presidential elections and launches an observation mission for the legislative elections](#)  
16 October 2013 – [EU enlargement: priorities for 2014](#)  
16 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Štefan Füle: 'Enlargement Package 2013'](#)  
11 October 2013 – [Statement by President José Manuel Barroso on the award of the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons](#)  
11 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Karel De Gucht: 'Economic Partnership Agreements \(EPAs\) - State of Play, Future Perspectives and Implementation'](#)  
11 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Štefan Füle at the National Round Table on European integration](#)  
11 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Štefan Füle: 'EU-Ukraine: Dispelling the Myths about the Association Agreement'](#)

## EU PRESS RELEASES (CONTINUED)

### European Commission – continued

- 10 October 2013 – [European and World Day against the Death Penalty – EU underlines commitment to universal abolition](#)
- 10 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Štefan Füle: 'The importance of EU-Ukraine cooperation for children'](#)
- 8 October 2013 – [UNESCO-EU: Working together for change](#)
- 8 October 2013 – [EU will continue to support El Salvador's contribution to eradicating poverty](#)
- 7 October 2013 – [The EU confirms its commitment to the sustainable development of Nicaragua](#)
- 4 October 2013 – [Commission proposes to open negotiations on visa facilitation with Morocco](#)
- 4 October 2013 – [EU helps to boost food security and build resilience to drought in Ethiopia](#)
- 4 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Dacian Cioloș: 'L'agriculture, au cœur du partenariat entre l'Union européenne et le Sénégal'](#)
- 4 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Štefan Füle: 'Civil Society at the Heart of Eastern Partnership'](#)
- 4 October 2013 – [EU helps to boost food security and build resilience to drought in Ethiopia](#)
- 4 October 2013 – [EU to discuss future development co-operation with Guatemala](#)
- 3 October 2013 – [Republic of Madagascar: EU to observe the presidential elections](#)
- 3 October 2013 – [Statement by Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva following the Security Council Presidential Statement](#)
- 3 October 2013 – [Statement by the spokespersons of High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Štefan Füle on worrying cases of pressure on opposition, civil society and media in Azerbaijan](#)
- 3 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Cecilia Malmström: 'Keynote speech at United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development'](#)
- 3 October 2013 – [Significant new EU development assistance foreseen for Central America](#)
- 1 October 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva: 'The Syrian crisis – humanitarian priorities of the European Commission'](#)
- 30 September 2013 – [EU and Indonesia sign historic deal to curb illegal timber](#)
- 27 September 2013 – [EU trade deal with Costa Rica and El Salvador becomes operational](#)
- 26 September 2013 – [EU and FAO help six countries achieve the Millennium Development Goal on hunger](#)
- 25 September 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Andris Piebalgs: 'EU confirms its commitment to help achieve global education'](#)
- 25 September 2013 – [Commissioner Andris Piebalgs and Commissioner Janez Potočnik welcome the establishment of the High Level Political Forum as well as the Outcome Document agreed at the UN MDG Special Event](#)
- 25 September 2013 – [Speech by President José Manuel Barroso at the opening of the Special Event on Millennium Development Goals](#)
- 25 September 2013 – [EU supports the Kenya Red Cross for its response to Westgate hostage crisis](#)
- 25 September 2013 – [Syria: EU biggest donor, leads international aid response, reaching 7 million people in need](#)
- 25 September 2013 – [Additional € 34 million contribution to Syria's children, as EU becomes largest donor to UNICEF](#)
- 25 September 2013 – [Speech by President José Manuel Barroso at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)
- 24 September 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Andris Piebalgs: 'Making the MDGs a reality for all'](#)
- 24 September 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Andris Piebalgs at "The way forward: a disability inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond"](#)
- 23 September 2013 – [EU is making major contribution to global fight against poverty](#)
- 19 September 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Štefan Füle: 'Rights of Crimean Tatars'](#)
- 18 September 2013 – [EU to discuss future priorities for development cooperation with the Caribbean](#)
- 17 September 2013 – [Speech by Commissioner Karel De Gucht: 'China and Europe: Essential Partners'](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the European Commission.

### European Parliament (EP)

- 24 October 2013 – [December summit: MEPs call for a change of mindset and a boost for EU defence](#)
- 24 October 2013 – [EU foreign policy must be proactive and set priorities, MEPs say](#)
- 23 October 2013 – [Neighbourhood policy: the EU should reward reforms, MEPs say](#)
- 22 October 2013 – [MEPs say EU has duty to shield eastern neighbours from Russian pressure](#)
- 16 October 2013 – [MEPs back Füle's "five fundamentals" for countries wanting to join the EU](#)
- 10 October 2013 – [Human rights: persecution in Syria, Pakistan and Iran, censorship in Sudan, Iraq](#)
- 9 October 2013 – [Macky Sall: building peace and security is a priority for Africa and the EU](#)
- 9 October 2013 – [Senegalese president: EU is a source of inspiration and hope](#)
- 9 October 2013 – [Parliament calls for humanitarian conference on Syrian refugee crisis](#)
- 9 October 2013 – [Russia's "trade war" against EU Presidency is unacceptable, say MEPs](#)
- 7 October 2013 – [Protect human rights by tackling corruption](#)
- 3 October 2013 – [EU should step up efforts to tackle the Syrian refugee crisis, says committee](#)

Click [here](#) to read all the latest press releases from the European Parliament.

## UPCOMING EU EVENTS

European Parliament plenary sessions: 9-12 December 2013, Strasbourg

Foreign Affairs Council: 16 December 2013, Luxembourg

European Council: 19-20 December 2013, Brussels

# THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 IN EUROPE

By Giulia Pasquinelli and Antonia Potter Prentice

In 2010, when EPLO published its first assessment of the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in Europe, only 12 European countries had national action plans (NAPs). Since then, NAPs have been adopted in an additional 11 countries.

The following conclusions on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Europe can be drawn from an analysis of a new collection of civil society case studies on those NAPs:

## Actors influencing NAP development processes

In most cases, the adoption of NAPs was the **result of intensive advocacy by women's organisations**. Their strategies included awareness-raising campaigns on UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions, promoting exchanges among women's rights advocates (women and men) across different sectors in civil society and politics, producing analysis and preparatory work for the adoption of NAPs, including good practice guides; and advocating in regional and international forums for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the adoption of NAPs. For example, in 2010, a group of leading Irish women's human rights, development, and humanitarian civil society organisations (CSOs) produced a good practice guide in which they set out six essential steps to develop an Irish NAP.

Numerous **civil society coalitions, working groups and platforms of CSOs** have been established in order to facilitate common advocacy and to provide input into the development of NAPs. This has generally helped to strengthen the capacity of women's organisations to advocate for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and to maximise their impact on the development of NAPs. For example, in the Netherlands, the gender platform WO=MEN facilitated the creation of a working group on UNSCR 1325 with the aim of coordinating civil society's contributions to the NAP. Civil society platforms are particularly useful since CSOs, particularly those active in conflict-affected countries, do not necessarily share a single, consensus view on how women, peace and security (WPS) issues should be prioritised and addressed in an NAP, and they bring different experiences to the table.

In some countries, particularly in the Western Balkans, these processes have been **strongly influenced by international and regional organisations** and have, in most cases, involved only a limited number of CSOs. Although women's organisations in the region have been advocating for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 for several years, some case studies revealed concerns that the development of NAPs were more indicative of governments' efforts to gain international legitimacy rather than of genuine commitment to the UNSCR 1325 agenda. The issue of ownership of these NAPs and of their subsequent implementation reflects trends of progress in peacebuilding in these countries (i.e. often due to international pressure rather than locally-led initiatives).

## Nature, focus and content of NAPs

Very few NAPs were produced on the basis of **consultations with the intended beneficiaries**. Only a small number of countries reached out to women affected by conflict during the development of their NAPs. Of the countries analysed, Ireland appears to have undertaken the most extensive consultation with CSOs.

The Irish NAP was the result of consultations with Irish CSOs and subsequently with women affected by conflict and living in Ireland as asylum seekers, refugees and migrants; an engagement with women living in Northern Ireland and affected by the conflict in the region, and a cross-learning initiative with women from Timor-Leste, Northern Ireland and Liberia. This consultation process was seen as a key mechanism for highlighting women's experiences of living with conflict and for improving the quality of the Irish NAP.

European countries' NAPs are primarily **outward-looking**, in that they focus on the country's role as a "donor" and "provider" of security and rarely address issues arising from conflicts taking place within or on their own borders. The NAPs of those countries which have direct experiences of conflicts rarely include provisions to address issues such as women's involvement in internal peacebuilding processes or the status of female victims of violence during a past conflict on their territory. For example, the UK government has argued that the Northern Ireland hostilities do not constitute an armed conflict under international law and, therefore, references to such events and ensuing processes in the NAP are unwarranted. (NB/ The Irish NAP, on the other hand, does make reference to the post-conflict status of Northern Ireland).

There is a general sense that **more specific links between provisions in the NAPs and provisions in other domestic and external policies** are required in order to avoid situations in which WPS issues are entirely confined to NAPs. For instance, in the UK, the Building Stability Overseas Strategy (BSOS), a cross-governmental conflict policy, and related conflict assessment tools, have been launched without fully incorporating the principles of the NAP, although some steps have been taken to remedy this in implementation as a result of advocacy by GAPS UK.

**A number of themes are conspicuous by their absence in most NAPs:** conflict prevention as opposed to conflict resolution, access to justice, reparations and reintegration for victims of sexual violence in conflicts, elements of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) policies, aspects of dealing with the past, weapons control, in particular illicit trade of small arms and light weapons; links between domestic and conflict-related violence, and the human trafficking of women and girls.

Some CSOs are concerned about the **predominantly securitised approach** of their country's NAP and a corresponding weak or missing focus on human security. They tend to view people-centred approaches to resolving inequalities as key to transforming and preventing violent conflicts. However, most NAPs tend to replicate existing state-centred concepts of security. While increased participation of women in the security sector is desirable, the case studies indicate that many CSOs believe that this approach falls short of the expectations and letter of UNSCR 1325 and that NAPs should contain transformative elements regarding the conceptualisation of security rather than a formulaic "add women and stir" approach.

EU MS' NAPs often contain references to **EU level commitments**. Their contributions to the implementation of the EU Comprehensive Approach to UNSCR 1325 and 1820 usually include participation in the EU Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, strengthening the integration of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions into Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, the secondment of gender advisers,

## THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 IN EUROPE (CONTINUED)

encouraging the inclusion of WPS issues into country strategy papers etc. However, the lack of common priorities between the EU institutions and Member States (MS) leads to the fragmentation of activities or even duplication of efforts, particularly in those conflict-affected countries in which many EU MS are engaged. The case studies indicate that many CSOs believe that more could be done to coordinate, integrate and optimise MS- and EU level actions on UNSCR 1325.

### From theory to practice: the missing link

Unfortunately, NAPs continue to face substantial challenges in the implementation phase. This is largely due to the absence of basic elements to ensure action, in particular: a dedicated budget, sufficient commitment from the responsible institutions to implement the plan, concrete measures to achieve the set goals, clear lines of responsibility and adequate monitoring mechanisms. New and updated NAPs show a **steady improvement in the inclusion of the basic elements to ensure action**. In this context, the 2012-2015 Dutch NAP stands out not only for the substantial participation of civil society in its development but also for integrating the aforementioned elements, including a dedicated budget.

### Evaluating the impact of NAPs

NAPs are generally seen as useful frameworks for helping countries to translate their commitments into practice. They also often provide **impetus for the development of related plans**, policies and practices in the domestic arena. For example, in 2007, the Belgian Ministry of Defence signed a charter for the promotion of gender equality, and the implementation of the principles of UNSCR 1325. In Ireland, following the adoption of the NAP in 2011, the Irish Defence Forces adopted its own action plan on UNSCR 1325.

In many cases, the development of NAPs has provided a **window of opportunity** to strengthen the focus on women and gender equality in related external and domestic policies. For example, in Belgium, sexual violence and the empowerment of women were two of the priorities identified for development co-operation policies in post-conflict settings, in part as a result of the NAP implementation.

**Key achievements** following the adoption of NAPs include the development of training packages on UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions, the appointment of staff in ministries with responsibilities for women, peace and security, the secondment of gender advisers to peace operations and missions, the establishment of teams with expertise on gender and conflict in relevant ministries, and the integration of a gender perspective in peace and security policies and operations. The Belgian Ministry of Defence's Department for Operations and Training established an 'Operational Gender Team', and developed an Action Plan entitled 'Gender mainstreaming in Operations'. It also employed a Belgian military officer in the Gender Section of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Secretariat.

M&E mechanisms can help to hold relevant institutions accountable for the implementation of NAPs. However, not all NAPs include such mechanisms or relevant indicators. Although most European countries have conducted M&E exercises, **only Estonia and Ireland have made their monitoring reports publicly available**. In addition, since different countries adopt different M&E mechanisms, it is not always possible to compare their results. The progressive integration of and reference to EU indicators in some of these mechanisms could contribute to the collection of comparable data across EU MS.

An emerging trend and good practice is the **increasing involvement of national parliaments** in activities related to the monitoring of the NAPs. For example, in 2011, the Advisory Board for the Equality of Women and Men in the Belgian Senate initiated an evaluation of Belgium's NAP which involved the organisation of hearings and the development of recommendations.

Ultimately, **little information is available on the impact of European countries' NAPs in conflict-affected countries**. What little data is gathered tends to be focused primarily on reorienting national structures to accommodate more women (in some cases with a disproportionate focus on military structures) and a more gendered approach. The question of impact in conflict-affected countries seems to be both harder to achieve and to measure. One of the few available examples of an attempt to evaluate the impact of European countries' NAPs in a conflict-affected country is a study on the impact of Sweden's efforts to implement UNSCR 1325 in Afghanistan which was published by three Swedish NGOs in 2012.

### Where UNSCR 1325 is not gaining traction

In those European countries where NAPs have not been adopted, state actors, CSOs and the wider populations generally either have a very limited knowledge of UNSCR 1325 or do not consider it relevant. For example, a survey conducted in Montenegro revealed that many female interviewees did not see UNSCR 1325 as an instrument for bringing about changes to their lives in terms of protection and empowerment. Similarly, the case studies indicate that many CSOs which are active in countries for which no NAP exists have **limited and often insufficient resources** to work on WPS issues and women's organisations tend to focus on domestic issues such as improving women's access to health, education and economic opportunities, and combatting and preventing gender-based violence. For example, the Czech Women's Lobby and its members have prioritised a women's rights agenda which has a policy impact at domestic level but which does not include a foreign policy dimension.

*This is an abridged version of the Civil Society Dialogue Network Discussion Paper entitled 'Joining the dots: from national to European level tools to implement UNSCR 1325'.*

*The full version of the paper and the collection of civil society case studies will be available to download from the EPLO website shortly.*

ARE YOU UNDERTAKING RESEARCH ON THE EU AND CONFLICT?

Click [here](#) to find out more about the 'Academic Friends of EPLO' initiative.

## JOB VACANCIES AND INTERNSHIPS

### JOB VACANCIES

There are job vacancies in the following EPLO member organisations: [Berghof Foundation](#), [Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid \(Cordaid\)](#), [Conciliation Resources](#), [International Center for Transitional Justice](#), [International Crisis Group](#), [Interpeace](#), [Oxfam International](#), [Saferworld](#), [Search for Common Ground](#) and [World Vision International](#).

### INTERNSHIPS / VOLUNTEERING

There are internship opportunities and/or open voluntary positions in the following EPLO member organisations: [Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities](#), [Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue \(HD Centre\)](#), [Crisis Management Initiative](#), [International Center for Transitional Justice](#), [International Crisis Group](#), [Life & Peace Institute](#), [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#), [Partners for Democratic Change International](#), [Pax Christi International](#), [Search for Common Ground](#) and [swisspeace](#).

Click [here](#) to visit the 'Job Vacancies and Internships' page of the EPLO website.

## TRAINING COURSES

The following EPLO member organisations are organising training courses in the coming months: [Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution](#), [Forum Civil Peace Service \(forumZFD\) - Academy for Conflict Transformation](#), [International Alert](#) and [Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania - International Peace and Development Training Centre](#).

Click [here](#) to visit the 'Training' page of the EPLO website.

## PUBLICATIONS

EPLO published the following statement in September 2013: [Putting Peace at the Heart of the Post-2015 Framework](#).

The following EPLO member organisations published reports and/or newsletters in September and October 2013: [Catholic Organization for Relief and Development \(Cordaid\)](#), [Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue \(HD Centre\)](#), [Conciliation Resources](#), [Crisis Management Initiative](#), [Dialogue Advisory Group](#), [ESSEC IRENÉ](#), [Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict](#), [International Alert](#), [International Center for Transitional Justice](#), [International Crisis Group](#), [Interpeace](#), [Kosovar Center for Security Studies](#), [Life & Peace Institute](#), [Oxfam International](#), [Partners for Democratic Change International](#), [Pax Christi International](#), [Quaker Council for European Affairs](#), [Saferworld](#), [Search for Common Ground](#), [swisspeace](#) and [World Vision International](#).

Click [here](#) to visit the 'EPLO Publications' page of the EPLO website and [here](#) to visit the 'Member Organisations' Publications' page of the EPLO website.

### WHO'S WHO IN THE EPLO OFFICE?

**Catherine Woollard:** Executive Director

**Ben Moore:** Senior Policy Officer

**Chris Glynn-Robinson:** Programme Assistant

**Giulia Pasquinelli:** Senior Policy Officer

**Nabila Habbida:** Policy Officer – Member States

**Anna Penfrat:** Policy Assistant

**Josephine Liebl:** Senior Policy Officer

**Najoua Sbai:** Events and Office Coordinator

### WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EPLO?

Visit the [EPLO website](#), like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) for information about recent publications and upcoming events (including EPLO lunch events).

## CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE NETWORK

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a three-year project co-financed by the European Union (Instrument for Stability) and aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and EU policy-makers. It is managed by EPLO, in co-operation with the European Commission and the European External Action Service.

### Upcoming Events

#### Policy Meeting

**Peace and Security in the Post-2015 Framework: What Role for Civil Society in Influencing and Implementing?**  
Thursday 28 November 2013, Brussels

*For more information about this meeting, please contact [Ben Moore](#).*

#### Policy Meeting

**Review of EUCAP Sahel Niger**  
Monday 2 December 2013, Brussels

*For more information about this meeting, please contact [Josephine Liebl](#).*

#### Policy Meeting

**Review of EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia**  
Thursday 16 January 2014, Brussels

*For more information about this meeting, please contact [Josephine Liebl](#).*

*For more information about these and other CSDN events, click [here](#) to visit the 'Civil Society Dialogue Network' section of the EPLO website.*

## THE EU AND PEACEBUILDING: FROM EUROPEAN PEACE-BUILDING PROJECT TO GLOBAL ACTOR

The EU and Peacebuilding: From European Peace Project to Global Actor is an 18-month project funded by the European Commission (Europe for Citizens Programme). Its aim is to engage a broad range of actors, including European citizens, European civil society organisations, academic institutions, research centres and think tanks, as well as national and EU-level decision-makers in a dialogue on the EU's role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and its history as a peace project.

### Upcoming Events

#### Statebuilding and Peacebuilding

January 2014, The Hague

*For more information about this meeting, please contact [Nabila Habbida](#).*

#### Support to Peace Processes in the EU

February 2014, Northern Ireland

*For more information about this meeting, please contact [Nabila Habbida](#).*

#### Civilian Common Security and Defence Policy

March 2014, Italy

*For more information about this meeting, please contact [Nabila Habbida](#).*

*For more information about this and other events in the framework of the EU and Peacebuilding: From European Peace Project to Global Actor' project, click [here](#) to visit the dedicated page on the EPLO website.*