



EPLO CONFLICT PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

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European Peacebuilding
Liaison Office
Rue Belliard 205, Box 12
1040 Brussels
Belgium

Tel. (General):
+32 (0)2 233 37 37
Fax:
+32 (0)2 233 37 38

General e-mail:
office@eplo.org
Website:
www.eplo.org

EU IN THE WORLD UPDATE

Council of the EU: The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) met on 26 April in Luxembourg and on 10 May in Brussels.

In April, the FAC adopted conclusions on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) (see below) and on Sudan, Burma and Kyrgyzstan. It also discussed next steps in the implementation of the EU Action Plan for Enhanced Engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan and took note of the first six-monthly report on this issue. Finally, it adopted a series of restrictive measures against certain persons and entities in Somalia.

In May, the FAC discussed the situation in Iran, nuclear issues, gender equality and development; and the prosecution of suspected pirates captured by ships taking part in Operation EU NAVFOR Atalanta. It also continued its discussions on the EU's relations with its strategic partners and held a policy debate to prepare the EU's position for the UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) review summit which will take place in September 2010 in New York. Finally, the FAC approved a report on the EU's policies and actions in the field of human from July 2008 to December 2009.

The General Affairs Council (GAC) also met on 26 April in Luxembourg and on 10 May in Brussels.

In April, the GAC agreed on a proposal for the establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS) (see below). It also approved a report on ways to improve co-operation in combating organised crime, especially drug trafficking, originating in West Africa; and adopted conclusions on tackling violence against women and on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report on EU assistance implemented through United Nations organisations.

In May, the GAC discussed preparations for the next meeting of the European Council which will take place on 17 June in Brussels. (NB/ The European Council is expected to focus on, *inter alia*, the upcoming review of the MDGs.) The GAC also adopted directives for the negotiation of association agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Click [here](#) to download the FAC conclusions and [here](#) to download the GAC conclusions.

European External Action Service: During the May meeting of the GAC, EU ministers reached a political agreement on the establishment of the EEAS based on the proposal which was published by the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton, on 25 March. The proposal is currently being discussed by the European Parliament.

Click [here](#) to download the Presidency compromise on HR/VP Ashton's proposal and click [here](#) to download the latest version of the European Parliament's working document on the EEAS.

CSDP missions: The EU Somalia Training Mission (EUTM) was launched on 7 April. The EU's latest military mission will contribute to training of Somali security forces in Uganda.

During its May meeting, the FAC adopted conclusions on the EU's ongoing CSDP missions. It also adopted conclusions on the development of civilian and military capabilities; security sector reform (SSR), small arms and light weapons (SALW); gender and human rights; conflict prevention, mediation and dialogue; training, lessons learned and partnerships with the United Nations, NATO and the African Union.

On 18 May, the Council adopted a decision to extend the EU's police training mission in Afghanistan for a period of three years from 31 May 2010 until 31 May 2013.

For more information about CSDP missions, please contact [Sanne Tielemans](#).

European Parliament: The European Parliament had plenary sessions on 19-21 April and 17-20 May in Strasbourg and on 5-6 May in Brussels. MEPs adopted resolutions on the need for an EU strategy for the South Caucasus, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Review Conference on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, EU Policy Coherence for Development and the "ODA plus" concept; the European Investment Bank's annual report for 2008 and the EU strategy for relations with Latin America (For more information, see the 'EU Documents' section on p. 4).

For more information about events in the European Parliament, please contact [Ben Moore](#).

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INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON PEACEBUILDING AND STATEBUILDING

Background

During the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF 3) which took place in September 2008 in Accra, it was acknowledged that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) would not be achieved in many conflict-affected countries without more coherent national and international actions on peacebuilding and statebuilding. As a result of HLF 3, an international dialogue on peacebuilding and statebuilding was formally launched on 4 December 2008 in Paris.

The International Dialogue involves various donors and their partner countries and is supported by the secretariat of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF). It is co-led by a senior partner from an OECD country and a partner country.

The International Dialogue meeting

This first global meeting of the International Dialogue, which was hosted by the Government of Timor-Leste on 9-10 April 2010, provided a real opportunity for countries affected by conflict and fragility to engage in open and frank dialogue with donor governments and civil society on key peacebuilding and statebuilding priorities, bottlenecks and good practice.

The first day of the meeting was devoted to sharing country experiences, based on the main findings from a series of [country consultations](#) which were conducted in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Timor-Leste on peacebuilding and statebuilding. The focus of the second day was on emerging priorities, global perspectives on

peacebuilding and statebuilding; and agreeing on the way forward.

Civil Society and the International Dialogue

Prior to the conference, EPLO member organisation Interpeace conducted a rapid consultative process called 'Fast Talk' to gather the views of almost 50 civil society organisations (CSOs), including eight EPLO member organisations and the EPLO Office, on the issues of peacebuilding and statebuilding. The key observations from the Fast Talk consultation were summarised in a [background paper](#).

The EPLO Office and several EPLO member organisations (Conciliation Resources, International Alert, Interpeace and Search for Common Ground) were present at the International Dialogue meeting and a number of issues which they raised were included in the final outcome document: the Dili Declaration (see below).

Outcomes

- The [Dili Declaration](#) which includes a list of eight actions to help accelerate progress on peacebuilding and statebuilding and a commitment to develop an international action plan for delivering more effective support to peacebuilding and statebuilding before the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF 4) in November 2011.
- The establishment of a permanent forum of the "g7+" group of conflict- and fragility-affected countries (Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands, South Sudan and Timor-Leste)
- A "g7+" statement (attached to the Dili Declaration)

A CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE ON STATEBUILDING IN POST-CONFLICT AFRICA

By Dr Didier Péclard, Senior Researcher, *swisspeace*

Academic and policy research about Africa has been dominated in recent years by discourses about purported "state failure". Incapable of providing basic services to their citizens, challenged in their monopoly over legitimate violence, contested by armed rebellion, states in Africa have been portrayed in virtually pathological terms as being threatened by "collapse", as endemically "fragile" and "weak", and as degenerating into nightmarish "shadow" or "quasi" states void of legitimacy, administrative capacity and actual presence on the ground.

Unquestionably, states in Africa have problems. However, the difficulty with the 'failed state' discourse is that it rests on very normative understandings of states by measuring up degrees of statehood (from "collapsed" to "fragile" to "weak", etc.) against an idealised Western model which is taken as the norm. Thus, states in Africa are defined by the negative, i.e. for what they fail to be in comparison to the Western model, instead of for what they actually are and for the ways in which statehood is given shape on the ground.

With its work on 'statehood and conflict' *swisspeace* proposes instead to take states in Africa seriously, that is, as objects of research in their own right, and not as 'failed' by-products of European colonialism. To do so, we suggest looking at ways in which statehood is 'negotiated' on the

ground by a variety of actors – official state representatives and others – and how power relationships crystallise in everyday confrontations and encounters at various levels (local, national and international).

For instance, research currently underway in South Sudan shows how the state is 'present-absent' in rural areas. Present in the sense that the process of state building brought state representatives physically into every village, but absent because many of the state services are actually provided by international donors or other non-state actors. In that context, informal networks play a crucial role, not only in the distribution of political and financial resources, but also in linking up the central state and its periphery. Government and administrative institutions are dominated by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). At the same time, other networks based on ethnicity, clan and family, civil society and the diaspora, overlap and are interlinked with the state. Generally, individuals belong to several of these networks at once. It is often through such networks that private or public resources are distributed and services brought to the grassroots level.

Understanding how statehood is produced by the interactions between these networks, clans and social groups is not only crucial for research but it also has important implications for policy makers.

For more information, please contact [Didier Péclard](#).

SEMINAR: 'STATEBUILDING AT THE HEART OF CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING

On 27 April, the Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation and the Folke Bernadotte Academy co-organised a seminar on 'Statebuilding at the Heart of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding' at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU in Brussels.

The event was the latest in the 'Conflict Prevention in Practice' programme – a two-year programme organised in close co-operation with the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, the European Commission and EPLo, aimed at increasing the capacity of the EU institutions and EU Member States to prevent violent conflict by strengthening conflict sensitivity, enhancing political dialogue with major partners, and sharing expertise in a variety of fields.

Ambassador Carlos Fernandez-Arias, Chair of the EU's Political and Security Committee, gave the opening remarks. These were followed by welcome statements from Ambassador Ragnar Ångeby, Director of the Conflict Prevention in Practice programme at the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Catherine Woollard, Executive Director of EPLo, and Daniel Fiott, Research Fellow from the Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation.

Following the introductory session, Helga Schmidt, Director of the Policy Unit in the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, gave an opening address in which she reminded participants of the goals which the EU set itself in the 2001 Gothenburg Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts as well as of the opportunity which the establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS) presents for increasing the effectiveness of the EU's approach to statebuilding.

The objective of the first panel was to provide an overview of the concept and challenges of statebuilding. It was moderated by Robert Parker, Head of Policy and Advocacy at EPLo member organisation Saferworld, and included presentations from Stephan Massing, Policy Analyst from the OECD's International Network on Conflict and Fragility, Marc Van Bellinghen, Deputy Head of the Crisis Response and Peacebuilding Unit in the European Commission's Directorate-General for External Relations, Nat Colletta, independent consultant and former manager of the World Bank's Post-Conflict Unit, and Luis Carnasa, Judicial Coordinator from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

The second panel discussion focused on the challenges and opportunities of statebuilding and took as a case Guinea-Bissau. It was moderated by Gabi Hesselbein, Research Fellow from the Development Studies Institute at the London School of Economics and included presentations from Fafali Koudawo, Director of EPLo member organisation In-

terpeace's 'Voice of Peace' programme in Guinea Bissau, Ambassador Mutaboba, Special Representative of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Guinea Bissau and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, and Filiberto Ceriani-Sebregondi, Head of the unit responsible for relations with West Africa in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Development.

The challenges and opportunities of statebuilding in Guatemala formed the basis of the third panel discussion. Moderated by María Luisa Huidobro Martín-Laborda, Deputy Director-General for Peacekeeping Operations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, this panel included presentations from Claudia Samayoa, Coordinator of the Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders from the National Human Rights Movement of Guatemala, Julia Schünemann, Researcher at EPLo member organisation FRIDE, and Lucia Montanaro, Senior Advisor on Peacebuilding Issues at EPLo member organisation International Alert.

The final panel discussion focused on the need for and challenges related to statebuilding and dialogue with socio-economic actors. It was moderated by Angel Vidal, independent consultant and former official from the International Labour Organisation, and included presentations from Jan van Elst, Head of the Development and African, Caribbean and Pacific states Unit in the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, Bernd Papenkort, Southeast Europe Regional Coordinator for the Oxford Leadership Academy, Dwight Justice, Policy Advisor at the International Trade Union Confederation, and Diana Klein, Project Manager in International Alert's Economic and Peacebuilding Team.

Ambassador Ångeby gave the closing remarks before handing over to Koen Dassen, Minister Counsellor from the Belgian Delegation to the EU's Political and Security Committee, who closed the seminar with some thoughts on the possible structure of the EEAS and an invitation to participants to take part in the next event in the Conflict Prevention in Practice programme which will take place during the Belgian Presidency of the EU in the second half of 2010.

A more detailed report of the seminar will be available in the coming weeks via the Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation [website](#).

For more information about the Conflict Prevention in Practice programme, please contact [Anna Widerpalm](#) from the Folke Bernadotte Academy or [Daniel Fiott](#) from the Madariaga-College of European Foundation.

EPLo Office

Catherine Woollard: Executive Director

Josephine Liebl: Policy Officer

Ben Moore: Policy Officer

Sanne Tielemans: Policy Officer

Najoua Sbai: Administrative Officer



[first initial][surname]@eplo.org

WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EPLo?

Click [here](#) for more information about upcoming events and recent publications.

BLOG!

EPLo has a blog. Click [here](#) to read the latest posts.

NEED HELP?

Do you have any questions about the EU and peacebuilding? Click [here](#) to contact the EPLo Helpdesk



EU DOCUMENTS

CFSP / High Representative (HR) / President of the European Council

- 31 May – [Declaration](#) by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on the Israeli military operation against the Flotilla
- 26 May – [Co-Chair's Statement](#): 18th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting
- 24 May – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- 21 May – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on Nagorno Karabakh
- 21 May – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the political situation in Thailand
- 19 May – [Joint Communiqué](#): EU-Central America Summit
- 18 May – [Declaration](#): EU-Latin America and Caribbean Summit
- 18 May – [Press Release](#): EU confirms willingness to participate in International Monitoring Team in Mindanao, Philippines
- 17 May – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on Moldova/Transnistria
- 16 May – [Joint Statement](#): Fifth EU-Mexico Summit
- 14 May – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on Kyrgyzstan
- 12 May – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the State of Emergency in Egypt
- 11 May – [Press Release](#): Sixth AU-EU Human Rights Dialogue
- 11 May – [Joint Communiqué](#): 10th EU-South Africa Ministerial Political Dialogue Meeting
- 11 May – [Statement](#) by HR Ashton on the adoption of negotiating directives for Association Agreements between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
- 10 May – [Declaration](#) by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on the launch of proximity talks between Israel and the Palestinians
- 10 May – [Press Release](#): Human rights and democracy in the world
- 5 May – [Press Statement](#): EU-Canada Summit
- 4 May – [Speech](#) by HR Ashton at the UN Security Council

Council

30 April – [Council Decision](#) of [...] on the signature, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement amending for the second time the Partnership Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 as first revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005

Commission

- 3 May – [Proposal](#) for a Council Decision of [...] concerning the allocation of the funds decommitted from projects under the 9th and previous European Development Funds (EDF) for the purpose of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable population in Sudan
- 21 April – [Communication](#) from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions: A twelve-point EU action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals
- 21 April – [Report](#) from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the mid-term review of the external mandate of the EIB
- 9 April – [Annual Report](#) on Humanitarian Aid Policy and its Implementation in 2009

Parliament

- 20 May – European Parliament [resolution](#) on the need for an EU strategy for the South Caucasus
- 20 May – European Parliament [resolution](#) on the Union for the Mediterranean
- 19 May – European Parliament [resolution](#) on the Review Conference on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
- 18 May – European Parliament [resolution](#) on the EU Policy Coherence for Development and the "ODA plus" concept
- 6 May – European Parliament [resolution](#) on the European Investment Bank's annual report for 2008
- 5 May – European Parliament [resolution](#) on the EU strategy for relations with Latin America

EU AGENDA

Council of the EU: The next meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council and the General Affairs Council will take place on 14 June in Luxembourg and the European Council will meet on 17-18 June in Brussels. The following Council committees and working parties will also meet in June:

- **Political and Security Committee:** 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 15, 22, 25, 28 and 29.
- **Committee for the Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management:** 2, 7, 14, 16, 21, 23 and 30.
- **Working Party on Development Co-operation:** 3, 4, 7, 10 and 24.
- **Africa Working Party:** 3, 9, 16, 24 and 28.
- **Working Party on Human Rights:** 8-9.

European Parliament: The next full plenary session will take place from 14-17 June in Strasbourg. The following (sub-) committees will also meet in June:

- **Foreign Affairs:** 1-2, 10 and 22-23.
- **Development:** 2, 10 and 21.
- **Security and Defence:** 2-3 and 23-24.
- **Human Rights:** 2-3 and 23-24.
- **Women's Rights and Gender Equality:** 22-23

Click [here](#) for more information about upcoming EU events.

On Wednesday 23 June, the Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention and Human Security and EPLO will co-organise a panel discussion on '**Conflict Prevention and the European External Action Service (EEAS)**'. For more information, please contact [Ben Moore](#).

INITIATIVE FOR PEACEBUILDING

Recent Publications:

- [The International Community's influence on state-society relations in Angola](#) by Sarah-Lea John de Sousa (May 2010)
- [Georgia's Conflicts: What role for the EU as mediator?](#) by Magdalena Frichova Grono (March 2010)
- [Governance in mining zones in North and South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo](#) by Jennifer Smith with Edward Bell (March 2010)

Recent Events:

- [Report](#) of the **Workshop on improving democratic governance and state-society relations**
- [Report](#) of the **CSO training seminar on European Civil Society Advocacy on Women, Peace and Security**, organised by EPLO in close co-operation with International Alert and other members of EPLO's Working Group on Gender Peace and Security (22-23 April 2010)

INITIATIVE FOR PEACEBUILDING

- [Report](#) of the **Civil society consultation on Women, Peace and Security: Indicators for the European Union**, co-organised by International Alert and EPLO (24 March 2010)
- [Report](#) of the **Conference on SSR and Donor Assistance in Serbia** (2 February 2010)

The Initiative for Peacebuilding is a consortium led by International Alert and funded by the European Commission. It draws together the expertise of 10 civil society organisations and their networks to develop and promote international knowledge and expertise in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. For more information about the Initiative for Peacebuilding, please visit the [website](#) or contact [Herta Eckert](#).

EPLO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS' NEWS, PUBLICATIONS & TRAINING COURSES

Jobs and Internships:

Conciliation Resources

- [West Africa Programme Director](#), London (Deadline: 14 June)
- [Executive Assistant](#), London (Deadline: 16 June)

International Alert

- [Consultant](#) to design a new International Alert peacebuilding programme in the Horn of Africa

International Crisis Group

- [Analyst - Indonesia](#)
- [Compensation & Benefits Specialist](#), Brussels
- [Director of Africa Programme](#), Nairobi
- [Senior Analyst - Gulf States](#)

Life & Peace Institute

- [Programme Advisor with a research profile](#), Uppsala (Deadline: 15 June)
- [Programme Advisor](#), Uppsala (15 June)
- [Programme Advisor](#), Uppsala (15 June)

Nonviolent Peaceforce

- [Field team members](#)

Quaker Council for European Affairs

- [Programme Assistants](#), Brussels (11 June)

Saferworld

- [Project Coordinator - Uganda](#) (Deadline: 7 June)

Search for Common Ground

- [Director of Information Technology](#), Washington DC
- [Junior Grants Analyst](#), Brussels
- [Manager of Grants and Budgets](#), Washington DC
- [Programme Associate - Great Lakes](#), Kigali
- [Project Director - Nigeria](#)
- [Project Director - Sudan](#)
- [Web and New Media Manager](#), Washington DC

Internships are available at:

- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [Life & Peace Institute](#)
- [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)
- [Search for Common Ground](#)

For more job and internship information, please visit our [website](#).

Publications and News:

EPLO

- [Report](#) of the **civil society consultation meeting on the EU and Somalia** (5 March 2010)

International Center for Transitional Justice

- [Transitions](#) (June 2010)
- [Publications](#) on the **Rome Statute Review Conference** (May 2010)
- [Mini-documentary: International Relations Meets International Justice](#) (September 2009)

International Crisis Group

- [CrisisWatch No. 82](#) (1 June 2010)

Life & Peace Institute

- [Horn of Africa Bulletin](#) (May 2010)

Partners for Democratic Change International

- [Newsletter](#) (Spring 2010)

Saferworld

- [Saferworld Activity Report](#) (March 2010)

Search for Common Ground

- [Common Ground News Service](#) (3-9 June 2010)

Swisspeace

- [Debriefing Mediators to Learn from their Experiences](#) by Simon J.A. Mason and Matthias Siegfried (2010)
- [KOFF Newsletter](#) (3 May 2010)

Training Courses and Fellowship Programmes:

Swisspeace: Political Division IV of the Swiss FDFA and the Center for Peacebuilding (KOFF) are organising a course on 'Dealing with the Past'. For more information, please visit their [website](#).

EN.CPS–forumZFD: The Academy for Conflict Transformation continues to offer a variety of training seminars on peace throughout 2010. All 2-5 day seminars take place in Königswinter near Bonn. For more information, please visit their [website](#).

EN.CPS–PATRIR / International Peace and Development Training Center (IPDTC): IPDTC 2010 Autumn Peace Academy: Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation & Post-war Stabilisation, Recovery and Reconciliation (18-22 October, Romania); Gender and Peacebuilding: Integrating Planning and Action in the Field (25-29 October, Romania). For more information, please contact [PATRIR](#) or visit the IPDTC [website](#).

EPLO MEMBERS

Berghof Conflict Research
Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network (KATU)
Conciliation Resources
Crisis Management Initiative (CMI)
European Network for Civil Peace Services (EN.CPS)
European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP)
ESSEC IRÉNÉ
Fractal
Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE)
Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
International Alert
International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)
International Crisis Group
Interpeace
Kvinna till Kvinna
Life and Peace Institute
Nansen Dialogue Network
NGO Support Centre
Nonviolent Peaceforce
Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI)
Pax Christi International
Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA)
Saferworld
Search for Common Ground
Swisspeace
Toledo International Centre for Peace (CITpax)
World Vision

EPLO welcomes applications from peacebuilding organisations. The next deadline for membership applications is mid-November 2010. Click [here](#) to download the application form.

UPCOMING EPLO EVENTS

Conflict Prevention and the European External Action Service

EPLO and the Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention and Human Security are co-organising a panel discussion on 'Conflict Prevention and the European External Action Service (EEAS)' on Wednesday 23 June 2010 at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The event will be hosted by Heidi Hautala MEP, Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights and invited panelists include the European Parliament's co-rapporteurs on the EEAS and officials from both the European Commission and the cabinet of High Representative Catherine Ashton.

For more information, please contact [Ben Moore](#).



EPLO is the platform of European NGOs, networks of NGOs and think tanks active in the field of peacebuilding, who share an interest in promoting sustainable peacebuilding policies among decision-makers in the European Union.

EPLO aims to influence the EU so it promotes and implements measures that lead to sustainable peace between states and within states and peoples, and that transform and resolve conflicts non-violently. EPLO wants the EU to recognise the crucial connection between peacebuilding, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development worldwide and the crucial role NGOs have to play in sustainable EU efforts for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and crisis management.

EPLO advances the interests of its members through common policy positions and consequently advocating for those common positions. EPLO disseminates information and promotes understanding of EU policies of concern to its members. The Office also builds solidarity and co-operation amongst its members and with other relevant NGO networks.

Finally, EPLO raises awareness about the contribution the EU should make to peacebuilding and the need to hold the EU accountable to its own political commitments of helping secure peace within and outside its borders.

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
Rue Belliard 205, Box 12
1040 Brussels
Belgium

Tel. (General): +32 (0)2 233 37 37
Fax: +32 (0)2 233 37 38

E-mail (General): office@eplo.org
Website: www.eplo.org

