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Subject : Presidency report to the European Council on EU activities in the framework of  
prevention, including implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of  
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Delegations will find attached the Presidency report to the European Council on EU activities in the framework of prevention, including implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts, as adopted by the Council (GAERC) on 17 June 2007, to be forwarded to the European Council in view of its meeting on 21-22 June 2007.

**Presidency Report to the European Council on EU activities  
in the framework of prevention, including implementation of the  
EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts**

**Introduction**

(1) This report sets out conflict prevention activities of the European Union since July 2006 in follow-up to the EU Programme on the Prevention of Violent Conflict, adopted by the European Council in Göteborg in June 2001. It also takes account of the European Security Strategy, adopted in December 2003, the Progress Report of the UN Secretary General on Prevention of Armed Conflicts published in August 2006 and the Recommendations of the EU Annual Report on conflict prevention adopted by the European Council last June.

(2) The report consists of a summary including recommendations based on the experience acquired in the course of conflict prevention activities undertaken in the last year. The following three chapters are dealing with developments regarding early warning, planning and policy on the one hand and EU instruments on the other as well as cooperation with partners. The final chapter provides a comprehensive overview of EU's operational activities related to conflict prevention in terms of cross cutting and geographical topics.

**I. Summary of the activities and recommendations for the future**

*The European Union, through the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts, underlines its political commitment to pursue conflict prevention as one of the main objectives of the EU's external relations. It resolves to continue to improve its capacity to prevent violent conflicts as one of the main objectives of the EU's external relations. (EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict, Göteborg Programme)*

(3) Throughout the reporting period, conflict prevention continued to be a key EU objective. Efforts were pursued to further strengthen its instruments both from a conceptual point of view and across the wide spectrum of its conflict prevention activities, with a view to enhancing coherence between the EU's various external policy instruments as well as cooperation between the EU institutions and the Member States.

Yet, in the wake of a significantly altered global security environment, short term crisis management is playing an ever greater role, and the long-term approach involved in conflict prevention is frequently being contrasted by the imperatives of short-term crisis management. This development demonstrates the need to enhance instruments that allow for a quick and effective response to emerging crisis, but at the same time for an ever more effective and efficient conflict prevention policy which would reduce the need for more costly crisis management operations. Ensuring coherence between all relevant instruments and actors, against this background, becomes ever more important.

(4) Through its wide array of conflict prevention and crisis management instruments ranging from action undertaken in the framework of CFSP and ESDP, the European Commission's external support and Member states' bilateral activities, the EU has become a major contributor to peace and stability around the world. The continuous enhancement of its diplomatic efforts, the increase of civilian and military crisis management operations, and their effectiveness are important assets in the EU conflict prevention capacity. The geographical and thematic scope of the ESDP operations has broadened, enabling the EU to respond to the crises in even more effective ways. Likewise the Commission, through the new Instrument for Stability, which replaced the Rapid Reaction Mechanism, is able to provide more flexible and rapid assistance in response to pre- and post-crisis situations, complementing and kick-starting efforts that are being undertaken under the more long-term community instruments.

(5) The EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict underlines the importance of addressing conflict in a coherent manner along clear political priorities, ensuring that early warning is followed by early action and that EU instruments for both long term and short term prevention are being enhanced. In the reporting period the EU has taken steps to further strengthen its cross-pillar approach to conflict prevention across the security-development nexus. This included the development of an overarching policy framework for EU Support to Security Sector Reform, adopted in June 2006, and the Concept on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration endorsed in December of that year. In the area of SSR this has enabled a more holistic and strategic approach also in operational terms in relation to cases such as Afghanistan, DR Congo and Kosovo.

In the spirit of improving coherence and coordination further efforts were undertaken to carry out joint Council-Commission assessment missions and to strengthen the planning activities through the establishment of Civilian Response Teams and the Commission's planning and assessment teams as well as through standby arrangements with the UN and World Bank for post-conflict and post-disaster needs assessments.

(6) New policies including the policy framework for support to SSR, the joint EU concept for support of DDR, have also contributed to the enhancement of EU capabilities and capacities in the field of conflict prevention and their more coherent use.

(7) The European Union has continued its active role in addressing global risks including in the field of energy, climate change, terrorism, organised crime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and small arms and light weapons.

(8) Following the adoption of the EU Strategy for Africa, the EU has further stepped up its efforts to enhance the capacities of the African Union and its regional organisations in all stages of the conflict cycle, from conflict prevention and early warning to conflict management and post-conflict peace-building. Consultations between EU and African partners in the Troika format in February 2007 provided an opportunity to further develop common understanding of key challenges in peace and security and exchange views on ways to address them.

(9) In line with the recommendations of the UN Secretary General "to act in concert" the EU has paid particular attention to enhance cooperation with the major international organisations and third partners, i.a. through strengthening the desk-to-desk dialogue with the UN and improving cooperation in the field. Further progress has also been achieved in the cooperation between the EU and NGOs/CSOs by enhanced exchange of information on potential threats and ongoing crisis situations. In the framework of the Conflict Prevention Network the EU institutions have been able to draw on NGO/CSOs policy and operational advice. Local, regional and international NGOs/CSOs also provide important channels for implementing Community and Member states' bilateral support in the area of peace and security.

(10) In the course of operational activities, the PSC, CivCom (as the Committee in charge of conflict prevention as a horizontal issue), PMG, EUMC, CODEV and geographical working groups continued to give broad and specific considerations to systematically addressing the threats of violent conflicts.

(11) Overall, there has been substantive progress towards a more coherent and effective EU approach to the prevention of violent conflict. In light of the review set out below and with a view to achieving further progress in this field, it is recommended that the European Union:

- Further develop and promote, at all levels, a culture of conflict prevention and conflict sensitivity through enhancement of mainstreaming.
- Improve the link of early warning to early action as well as enhance monitoring and assessment activities in order to make early warning documents of better operational use.
- Support strengthening capacity building in member states.
- Strengthen expertise in the area of conflict analysis and specific thematic issues such as Security Sector Reform (SSR), Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), transitional justice, gender including further implementation of UNSR 1325, mediation and dialogue processes, including further implementation of UNSCR 1612 and the EU Human Rights Guidelines, in particular the Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict.
- Further strengthen capacity to plan and conduct crisis management operations within the Council General Secretariat.

- Continue to improve and develop further, in the context of their respective competences, cooperation with international actors, e.g. the UN, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the African Union and NATO, and other regional and sub-regional actors, including efforts to improve dialogue and long-term cooperation.
- Enhance political dialogue with major international organizations and third states in addition to regular staff-to-staff contacts.
- Further contribute to strengthening the capacity of regional and subregional organizations to prevent violent conflict, especially in Africa.
- Improve cooperation with non-state actors, in particular NGOs/CSOs by further enhancing exchange of views and information in Brussels and in the field, as appropriate, and intensifying cooperation in the field.
- Examine possible ways of taking account of Member States' relevant activities in the field of conflict prevention.

## **II. Improving early warning, planning and policy**

*Successful prevention must be based on accurate information and analysis as well as clear options for action for both long-term and short term prevention, It requires enhanced field cooperation.*

*Coherence must be ensured in early warning, analysis, planning, decision making, implementation and evaluation. (EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict, Göteborg Programme)*

### a) Early Warning and Planning Level

(12) Cooperation between the Council, Commission and Member states in preparing the Watch list has become closer and sharing of information has been further enhanced. Efforts have been placed to further engage Member States in the preparation of early warning documents. In addition, efforts are also under way to further refine the early warning methodology and operationalise the early warning documents.

(13) The Commission has been working closely with Member states in developing of the new country and regional strategy papers for the period 2007-2013. Given the number of partner countries that are in a situation of high level of tensions, open violent conflict or in post-conflict situations, conflict prevention and peacebuilding has been given high priority in many strategies, with actions identified through the help of the root causes checklist matrix.

b) Operational level

(14) In 2006 **Civilian Response Teams** (CRTs), which are a new rapid deployment tool for EU civilian crisis management, became operational as a pool of 83 experts were trained and a training course concept and mobilisation and deployment procedures were agreed.

Other necessary tools for rapid deployment of civilian crisis management operations were also further developed, notably through elaborating faster procedures for funding preparations and initial field presence and launching the work on framework contracts for procuring essential mission equipment.

(15) The European Commission has started to **deploy planning and assessment teams** and is establishing standby arrangements with the UN and World Bank to ensure joint post-conflict and post-disaster needs assessments, and is further developing its scientific support, using satellite imagery, alert systems and open source information.

(16) Work on rapidly deployable civilian elements also focused on Integrated Police Units (IPUs) and Formed Police Units (FPUs). Further work was undertaken on the transition of those rapidly deployable police elements that are under temporary military responsibility into a civilian chain of command, and the coordination between rapidly deployable police elements and rule of law elements. The EU Exercise Study 2006 was a useful contribution to the further development of the planning framework for the deployment of rapidly deployable police elements and CRTs.

(17) The Civil/Military Cell of the EU Military Staff has continued to make valuable contributions by assisting in advance and operational planning for ESDP missions, in particular the EU Support Action for the African Union in Sudan, comprising both civilian and military components, and a future civilian mission in Afghanistan. The Cell played a substantial role in ensuring the success of the Aceh Monitoring Mission, closed at the end of 2006, in particular by co-ordinating essential elements of military logistics and communications support to this otherwise civilian mission. Since the beginning of 2007, the Joint Situation Centre and the EUMS Intelligence Division continued to provide crucial assistance to ESDP operations through all the phases of planning and conduct under the SIAC (Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity) aegis.

(18) The work to make the EU Operations Centre ready for activation was finalised in December 2006, thereby improving the EU's capability to plan and conduct any future ESDP operation.

(19) As of 1 January 2007 the Rapid Reaction Mechanism (RRM) was replaced by the **Instrument for Stability** (IfS). The IfS will help to strengthen and streamline the EC's crisis response capacities in the short to medium term, with support lasting for up to 24 months.

It can be used in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis, initial post-crisis political stabilization, and early recovery from natural disasters, complementing or spearheading support under the mainstream EC external instruments. The instrument also allows the EU to support capacity-building of the international system to respond to crises. Through a Peacebuilding Partnership to be established under the new instrument the Commission will strengthen the operational links with Member States, specialist non-state actors and multilateral actors as well as regional and sub-regional organizations.

c) New policies

(20) During the reporting period, a wide range of new instruments were introduced in the field of conflict prevention.

- An EU **policy framework for support to SSR** was adopted by the European Council in June 2006, bringing together the Concept of ESDP Support for SSR adopted in December 2005 and the European Community Communication of May 2006. It stresses the importance of the EU taking a comprehensive cross-pillar approach to SSR. At the same time it recognizes SSR as a holistic, multi-sectoral and long-term process, and part of governance reform. On a country-specific basis, this has led to a joint Council Secretariat/Commission services paper on EU support to SSR to the DRC.
- A **Joint EU Concept of Support for DDR** was adopted in December 2006 by the Council and the Commission. The EU has been active in DDR processes in over 25 countries currently or in the past primarily through community support, including current support in the Great Lakes region, West Africa, East Africa, Indonesia and Colombia. The Aceh Monitoring Mission was the first ESDP mission to be involved in DDR. An integrated approach to DDR, based on a common concept, including coordination and cooperation between the pillars and with other stakeholders, will make a difference to the pace of progress in the area.
- Conceptual work to improve **links between civilian and military instruments** was pursued. The EU Exercise Study 2006 provided for an exchange of views on civil-military co-ordination in the context of rapid response operations. A comprehensive and coherent response remains the cornerstone of the EU's approach to crisis management.

The increasing array of EU civilian and military instruments for crisis prevention and management has underlined the need for their use in a more integrated, targeted and effective manner. The **EU Exercise Programme** also continues to lay emphasis on better integration of EU instruments as part of a comprehensive approach.

- Work was taken forward to identify **training** requirements for civilian crisis management operations. At the end of the year, Member States agreed to take work forward in order to ensure a consistent level of quality among EU training providers and better interoperability with EU key partners in crisis management. Lists of minimum elements of training for non-mission-specific and mission-specific training were agreed. A paper entitled "Future training needs for personnel in civilian crisis management operations" (doc.10825/06) set out a number of areas where work needs to be pursued in order to ensure a high level of preparedness of personnel deploying on civilian ESDP missions. A workshop was conducted in Brussels on 19-20 October which provided expert views on the principal areas of further work identified in abovementioned doc. 10825/06. CivCom in its advice on the workshop report enshrined a minimum list of elements for non-mission-specific training and mission-specific pre-mission training, respectively.
- On 20 October 2006 the European Commission adopted a strategy on “**EU partnership for peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa.**” This strategy sets out a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention in the Horn of Africa, tackling the root causes of instability, and provides a political framework for concrete regional initiatives and for structured dialogue between partners. It also introduces a regional programme for action to enhance cooperation and regional integration. This Partnership will now be discussed with the countries concerned and with the East African regional organisation IGAD (Inter-governmental Authority on Development).
- **Lessons learned from ESDP missions and Community support** in the area of SSR and DDR provided an important basis for the joint EU concept on DDR and the SSR policy framework. In addition the Commission is working with a number of member states, in the context of the OECD-DAC to develop better evaluation criteria for conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities.

### **III. Enhancing EU instruments for long and short term prevention**

*The Union has an extensive set of instruments for structural long-term and direct short term preventive actions (...). It must use these instrument in a more targeted and effective manner in order to address root causes of conflict such as poverty, lack of good governance and respect for human rights, and competition for scarce natural resources. (EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict, Göteborg Programme)*

#### a) Short and medium term instruments

(21) The European Union's **Special Representatives (EUSRs)** are a forceful illustration of the EU's growing global engagement in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and crisis management. Currently, nine EUSRs are in place, covering selected EU priority countries and regions where high level EU engagement and an overall coherence of approach are required: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central Asia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (at the same time Head of the Delegation of the Commission), the African Great Lakes, the Middle East Peace Process, Moldova, the Southern Caucasus and Sudan.

(22) Up to the end of 2006 the **Rapid Reaction Mechanism (RRM)** provided rapid and focused responses to crisis or potential crisis situations in third countries, as an important component of the EU's toolkit for crisis management and conflict prevention. It has notably offered support to security sector reform (DR Congo, Liberia, Kosovo, Afghanistan), to peace processes or national dialogue and reconciliation (Sudan, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Philippines and East Timor), to Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (Aceh, Colombia) and to electoral and referendum support (Madagascar, Mauritania and Serbia and Montenegro).

(23) During the reporting period, in the framework of the **Civilian Headline Goal 2008** process efforts were made to further improve the qualitative aspects of EU civilian capabilities, enhance the involvement of sectoral ministries in Member States and establish good practice for raising civilian mission personnel. The role of third states, international organisations and NGOs/CSOs in the Civilian Headline Goal process has been further elaborated and a first workshop on lessons learnt was organised during the German presidency.

The possibilities to assist Member States in establishing national contact points for Civilian Crisis Management and enhance the exchange of information and best practices at EU level have also been explored.

(24) Within the military **Headline Goal 2010 process**, work has continued to address existing shortfalls and to be able to respond to crisis situations with rapid and decisive action covering the whole spectrum of crisis management operations. A Requirements Catalogue (RC 05) was agreed in November 2005, followed in the reporting period by Force Catalogues. Work is ongoing on the elaboration of a subsequent Progress Catalogue. On 1 January 2007, the European Union has reached the full operational capability to undertake operations of Battle-groups size in situations requiring a rapid response, including the ability to launch two such operations simultaneously.

b) Long-term instruments

(25) **The European Neighbourhood Policy** continues to play an important role as a foreign policy tool. It draws on all available instruments under the three pillars. **ENP Action Plans** include commitments on political areas such as democratic reforms, minority rights, rule of law, regional cooperation, cooperation on CFSP and ESDP issues, organised crime, terrorism, ICC, weapons of mass destruction. Where relevant, the Action Plans contain direct references to conflict prevention, listing specific conflict prevention activities. In the context of the implementation of the Action Plans, dialogues on human rights and democratisation as well as on justice and security is being provided in a number of these areas. In 2006, another 5 ENP Action Plans were agreed with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lebanon and Egypt. The new European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) contains important elements on cross-border cooperation with and between these neighbours.

(26) The **African Peace Facility (APF)** has continued to support African organisations to run African Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and build up the African capacity to this effect by providing flexible funding. The initial APF allocation of €250mio was topped up in 2006 by additional €50mio raising the total allocation of the APF to €300mio. Further €300mio will be provided for the future Peace Facility under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF for an initial three-year period (2008-2010).

So far, the APF has provided funding to the following PSOs: the African Union Mission in Sudan, the Force multinational en Centrafrique in the Central African Republic and the African Union Mission in the Comoros. As regards capacity building, the following activities have been supported: strengthening capacities of the African Union Commission, establishment of the African Standby Force, support to sub-regional organisations' liaison officers to the African Union, to an early warning system and financial capacity of both the AU and sub-regional organizations. Through the bi-annual APF Joint Coordination Committee regular dialogue with key actors on political challenges and implementation of concrete actions in Peace and Security takes place.

(27) The EU has dedicated increased attention to addressing the links between **natural resource management and conflict**. In 2006, the European Commission undertook work to highlight ongoing actions and areas where actions are needed by the EU. The German Presidency also included the theme of "Integrating Environment, Development and Conflict Prevention" among its priorities and, in close co-ordination with the European Commission, promoted an exchange of views on national and European approaches hosting two conferences in Berlin and Brussels in the spring of 2007.

(28) In January 2007, the European Community took over the Chairmanship of the **Kimberley Process** (the international instrument to combat conflict diamonds), and has committed to work to ensure effective implementation of controls by all participants and to implement a number of recommendations to enhance the Processes' effectiveness and capacity to react to crises. It undertook close monitoring of the situation in Venezuela and Zimbabwe, where implementation of diamond trade rules raised concerns. The Kimberley Process also called on Ghana to implement an Action Plan to strengthen its internal controls. Under the Rapid Reaction Mechanism the EC provided assistance to the authorities of Ghana for devising and implementing an Action Plan and strengthening its internal controls to prevent conflict diamonds from being exported through Ghana. This will specifically support the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire by cutting off revenues from the illicit export of diamonds through Ghana.

(29) Implementation of the **EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)** which sets out a response to illegal logging and associated trade of conflict timber continued in 2006. Malaysia and Ghana announced their intention to conclude a FLEGT Partnership Agreement with the EU. Indonesia made a similar announcement in January 2007.

The European Commission continued to participate in the Liberia Forest Initiative, which aims to help the Liberian forest sector to operate on a sustainable basis after the lifting of UN Security Council sanctions on timber exports. Projects to strengthen civil society participation in forest management were funded in a number of countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia and Colombia.

(30) In the framework of the **European Union Water Initiative (EUWI)**, the EC supported activities and, inter alia, projects promoting river-basin approaches to national and transboundary waters, strengthening co-operation amongst countries, contributing to water security and thereby reducing the potential for conflict over water. In particular in the ACP region, intra-ACP resources have been committed in 2006 to support the management of the Niger, Volta, Lake Chad, Orange/Senqu and Kagera basins, and resources from the ACP-EU Water Facility are supporting the Nile Basin Initiative, Niger and Senegal basins, as well as several programmes for integrated water resources management at national level.

(31) **Terrorism** is a global threat and has to be fought globally. In the reporting period, the EU has continued its efforts to fully implement the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In this context, countering radicalisation and recruitment into terrorism counted among the key areas of activity. The EU has adopted a Strategy and Action Plan on Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism and is actively engaged in its implementation. The EU has further engaged in political dialogue on the fight against terrorism with many countries and is providing technical assistance in order to enhance counter-terrorism capabilities. The Instrument for Stability also offers a legal basis for targeted counter-terrorism action to complement country-specific activities by addressing trans-regional and global issues.

(32) **Weapons of Mass Destruction** (WMD) and missile proliferation constitute a major threat not only for the EU but also for international security in wider terms. Within the EU efforts to reinforce the efficiency of export controls have continued. The further implementation of a number of EU Joint Actions in support of multilateral bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, as well as the adoption and implementation of a new EU Joint Action in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention have contributed to conflict prevention.

Under these Joint Actions, the EU supports activities which promote the universalisation of international treaties and conventions; provides assistance to third countries for setting up proper legislative and administrative capacities and specific assistance for securing sensitive facilities and fighting illicit trafficking of dangerous materials. Cooperation on export controls implementation has also been expanded with third countries. Under the new Instrument for Stability the Commission will be able to expand its work on export control assistance. Work has also been taken forward to include a non-proliferation clause as an essential element in agreements with third countries. The Action Plans for countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy now also include provisions on non-proliferation.

(33) Support for the implementation of the **Ottawa Treaty** banning anti-personnel mines and the disposal and control of the flow of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) are key elements identified in the Göteborg Programme for Conflict Prevention. The EC 2005-2007 multi-annual strategy for Mine Action calls for a "Zero Victim Target" in the fight against antipersonnel landmines worldwide. To this end, € 100 mio were provided over the last 5 years, notwithstanding EU Member States' contributions.

(34) The EU furthermore contributes with a variety of initiatives and projects to the implementation of the **EU Strategy on SALW**, adopted in December 2005. The EU has substantially financed various projects in Africa, South-East Europe, the Middle East, Ukraine, Latin America and Asia. Internally, EU member states implement a policy on arms exports in conformity with the European Code of Conduct, adopted in 1998 and which has been revised. In 2006, as in previous years, around € 100 mio have been disbursed on projects across the world targeting different aspects of political, legislative processes as well as humanitarian and development impacts resulting from the illicit spread, proliferation, uncontrolled use and misuse of these weapons.

(35) Conflict prevention is an essential element of the EU's **human rights** policy. At the same time, the promotion of human rights is a major conflict prevention tool. The protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms have been systematically stressed by the EU in its bilateral relations as well as in multilateral fora, particularly the United Nations Human Rights Council established in March 2006. Human Rights issues have been mainstreamed, including through making them an integral part of the planning process and the Standard Operating Procedures of ESDP missions.

During the reporting period, language on human rights was included as appropriate in EUSR mandates. Under the **European Initiative on Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)** the EC contributed to conflict prevention by supporting human rights and democratisation projects at the global, regional and national level, with a special focus on the role of civil society. Promoting UN principles and guidelines and national laws on anti-discrimination as well as promoting minority rights and multi-ethnic dialogue have been the focus of support in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Nepal and India. Under the financial envelope "Freedom of expression" special emphasis was put on media and conflicts. Special emphasis was also put on the rights of women and particularly to women and young girls' rights protection in conflict and post-conflict situations, with projects being implemented in Colombia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia. In the area of justice and rule of law, EIDHR support has been provided to projects dealing with transitional justice and reconciliation in Sierra Leone, Uganda and Rwanda.

(36) Under the EIDHR support was provided to the **Conflict Prevention Network (CPN)** which facilitates networking among research institutions, think-tanks, academia and civil society organisations. In 2006, the International Crisis Group together with International Alert, the European Policy Centre and the European Peace Building Liaison Office implemented activities in the framework of the "Conflict Prevention Partnership" which ended in December 2006. A further € 1,5 mio was allocated in the 2006 budget by the European Parliament for CPN with a new call for proposals launched in November 2006. The Action is planned to start in the summer of 2007 and will focus on seven cluster areas important for prevention.

(37) **Gender mainstreaming** is an integral element of analyzing conflict situations and setting strategic objectives of ESDP missions. The "Checklist to ensure gender mainstreaming and the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the planning and conduct of ESDP operations" dated 27 July 2006 provides guidance for the planners of missions. In November 2006 the Council adopted conclusions on promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming in crisis management. Under the EIDHR in fostering a culture of human rights, special emphasis was put on the rights of women and particularly to women and young girl's rights protection in conflict and post-conflict situations, with EC support being implemented in Colombia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya and Somalia. The gender dimension was also clearly integrated to the new joint EU concept on DDR. In addition, the function of a gender adviser will be added to EUSEC RD Congo and EUPOL RD Congo.

In addition, a training seminar on Gender Mainstreaming in ESDP Missions held in Brussels on 30 November - 1 December 2006 was organized for key mission personnel. The Hungarian Ministry of Defence with the support of the Presidency of the EU, also organized a seminar on Gender and ESDP for the staff of Member States and EU institutions in April 2007.

(38) Work has also progressed with respect to **children affected by armed conflict**. The EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict (2003) were followed up by the EU Checklist for the Integration of the Protection of Children Affected by Armed Conflict into ESDP Operations (2006) and the EU Concept for Support to DDR. These offer a framework for joint EU action to prevent children's rights' abuse in the context of armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations and for the reintegration of children associated with armed groups. Through EC support efforts are made to demobilise and reintegrate former child soldiers, including in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone and Uganda. Efforts have also been made to prevent the recruitment of children into armed groups or forces. During the reporting period, language on women and children in armed conflicts was included as appropriate in EUSR mandates. In addition, the function of an adviser on human rights and children in armed conflicts will be added to EUSEC RD Congo and EUPOL RD Congo. The Cape Town Principles of 1997 dealing with children associated with fighting forces, with the prevention of recruitment of children and demobilization and social reintegration of children in Africa were revised, resulting in the adoption of the Paris Principles. in February 2007. This was done in a process led by UNIFEM and supported by the EC to reflect current legal standards, to increase their reach beyond Africa and to engage a larger range of institutions and governments.

#### **IV. Building effective partnerships**

*The EU must build and sustain mutually reinforcing and effective partnerships for conflict prevention with the UN, the OSCE and other international and regional organizations as well as civil society. Increased cooperation is needed at all levels, from early warning and analysis to action and evaluation. Field coordination is of particular importance. EU action should be guided by principles of value added and comparative advantage (EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict, Göteborg Programme)*

(39) In order to deal successfully with the growing complexity and the scale of global threats and to meet the challenges confronting it, the EU continued to pursue its objective wherever possible in close cooperation with other multilateral organisations, as well as with global bilateral partners and with non-state actors.

(40) The implementation of the outcome of the **United Nations** World Summit in September 2005 continued to be one of the EU's priorities. In its conclusion of 15 December 2006, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to ensure that the agreed reforms are fully and urgently implemented. The European Union supported the establishment of the Peace-building Commission as a key achievement of the UN reform process that corresponds with the European Union's comprehensive approach to conflict prevention, development and peacebuilding. It is committed to strengthening the efficiency of this new organ. EU actors have actively participated in the country-specific meetings as well as in relevant discussions at field level.

(41) EU-UN co-operation in peace operations continued to develop as well, notably in the framework of support to MONUC in the DRC. At the request of MONUC, the EU reinforced its presence during the electoral period, deploying a military operation (EUFOR DRC Congo) and strengthening its police mission (EUPOL Kinshasa). The EU and the UN continued their close co-ordination regarding support to the AU Mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS), including the implementation of the UN support package to AMIS. To support the implementation of UNSCR 1701 (2006) regarding the situation in Lebanon, EU Member States made a significant contribution to the reinforcement and deployment of UNIFIL. The EU Planning Team deployed in Kosovo from May 2006 has been cooperating closely with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). This collaboration will be further pursued to ensure a successful transition of selected tasks from the UNMIK to the planned EU mission in the wider area of rule of law. The EU will continue to support the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in coordinating donors' civilian efforts. The ESDP mission will work closely and coordinate with the UN on police reform in Afghanistan.

(42) The UN continues to be the primary partner of EU support in the areas of SSR, DDR and other peacebuilding tasks, as for example in the case of the Law and Order Trust Fund (LOFTA) for Afghanistan covering police and justice reform through EC support to UNDP, the reintegration of ex-GAM combatants and receiving communities in Aceh, through EC support to IOM and UNDP and the DDR programme in Liberia through the UNDP trust fund. The EU Concept on DDR is also to a large extent based on the UN definitions and lessons learned. In addition, the UN and the World Bank implement a range of other EU supported programmes in the areas of natural resource management and reconciliation.

(43) Working contacts with the UN have been further developed. The 5th and the 6th meetings of the EU-UN Steering Committee on crisis management in June and November 2006 as well as the 5th "desk-to-desk" dialogue on conflict prevention in October 2006 further deepened the mutual understanding of each other's working methods and provided the possibility to discuss a broad array of topics ranging from horizontal issues to specific discussions on countries emerging from conflict.

(44) Cooperation with NATO in respect of operation Althea has continued.

(45) The EU has pursued its fruitful cooperation with the **OSCE** in Central Asia (Border Management Program for Central Asia), the Caucasus (Economic Rehabilitation Programme in South Ossetia), Eastern Europe (Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, Border Support Team of the EUSR for the South Caucasus), as well as in the Balkans. Cooperation between OSCE field operations and Commission's Delegations has further progressed. With now 27 participating states out of 56, plus 10 others aligning themselves with its statements and initiatives, the EU's relative weight in the OSCE has again increased.

(46) In the area of conflict prevention, the Commission and a number of EU member states are active in the **OECD-DAC** Conflict, Peace and Development-Cooperation Network. This enables close cooperation between bilateral (EU MS, US, Canada, Japan etc) and multilateral donors (UN and WB) on policy and operational guidance, which has included work in the areas of SSR, evaluation of conflict prevention and peace building and the mainstreaming of conflict prevention and the development of training modules in the past year. The SSR work was especially instrumental for the development of the ESDP Concept of 2005 and Commission Communication of 2006.

(47) **The EU and the US** have continued to work together in the field of civilian and military crisis management and conflict prevention. Real time contacts help the EU and the US to work together to react to crises in a timely manner and to develop a common approach and common messages. Close cooperation continued in stabilisation efforts in the Balkans , in particular regarding the planned ESDP mission in Kosovo, and in Afghanistan. Based on the 2005 Summit Declaration, further cooperation has been sought in the areas of democracy, freedom, the rule of law and human rights. This cooperation has been confirmed by the 2007 Summit Declaration underlining that modern crisis management requires a comprehensive approach. Joint efforts have been undertaken to enhance the conflict prevention capacity of the African Union and operational coordination is carried out between USAID and the Commission's delegations. The EU and the US, along with other international partners, are also working together to seek to address the international concerns raised by Iran's nuclear programme. They share a commitment to the values of the OSCE and have worked together in the OSCE context, including on election observation and the OSCE's field missions.

(48) **The EU and Canada** have intensified cooperation on crisis management and conflict prevention. Canada participates in a number of operations within the framework of ESDP. Cooperation has also included multiple contacts with Canada's newly established Stabilization and Reconstruction Team (START) in order to facilitate a joint approach to crises and conflict prevention. The EC and Canadian CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) are working closely on implementation and policy coordination, including through the OECD-DAC.

(49) **The EU and Russia** have held frequent meetings within their bilateral political dialogue where countries and regions facing the risk of conflict are being discussed. To this effect, regular contacts are taking place between the relevant EUSRs and their interlocutors in Moscow. Moreover, the EU and Russia participate in other fora, including the UN, the OSCE, the Quartet for the Middle East Peace Process and the Contact Group on the Western Balkans where issues of conflict prevention are discussed. Consultations have also been stepped up on horizontal issues with relevance to conflict prevention, notably on non-proliferation and the fight against terrorism.

(50) Workshops organised by the Madariaga Foundation and Folke Bernadotte Academy on 16th November 2006 and on 19th April 2007, supported by the Finnish and German Presidencies, played important role in further raising the awareness and promoting the cooperation of the European Union with other international organisations and major global partners in conflict prevention and crisis management.

(51) Particular attention was given to **co-operation with civil society**, in particular NGOs/CSOs. Under the German Presidency a series of workshops and conferences examined possibilities of enhancing cooperation between the EU and NGOs/CSOs in conflict prevention and crisis management. This project followed up on and further developed the Finnish Presidency's project "Role of Civil Society", which led to the formulation of concrete recommendations on the enhancement of EU-NGO/CSO cooperation. These recommendations were discussed by CivCom and endorsed by the PSC in November 2006. In an effort to increase the dialogue with civil society and NGOs/CSOs in the area of conflict prevention, the German Presidency has invited NGOs/CSOs to brief CivCom members on their work in conflict areas such as Afghanistan, Kosovo, the DR Congo or BiH.

(52) Through the Conflict Prevention Network the EU also enhanced cooperation with civil society actors, academia and think-tanks, which in turn helped to raise awareness and provided EU institutions and member states with analyses and policy recommendations in relation to specific geographical settings in prevention. This complemented the more operational cooperation that the EC pursues with non-state actors in implementing conflict prevention and peacebuilding support in different parts of the world. The EIDHR has been an especially important instrument in 2006 in supporting the capacity and role of local NGOs/CSOs in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

## **V. Overview of Operational Activities**

The EU continues to have a significant presence on the ground and pursues its activities with conflict prevention relevance throughout the world.

## Western Balkans

(53) In the framework of the European perspective of the Western Balkan as set out in the **Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP)**, the Thessaloniki Agenda and the Salzburg Declaration of March 2006, the European Union remains strongly engaged in conflict prevention in the Western Balkans. As for regional cooperation, the EU also has a leading role in the **Stability Pact**, which continues to make an important contribution to the SAP. The EU is ready to remain involved in the forthcoming implementation of the phased evolution of the Stability Pact into the more regionally owned Regional Cooperation Council. The EU has currently two **Special Representatives** in the region: in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), as well as the Stability Pact Coordinator. In November 2006, the EU amended the mandate of the **EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM)** to monitor political and security developments in its area of responsibility, with a political focus on Kosovo and Serbia, and extended its mandate until the end of 2007.

(54) One of the most urgent issues on the Balkan agenda is to find a solution to the **Kosovo status issue**. Within the Stabilisation and Association Process, the EU is continuing to support the political process to determine Kosovo's future status. In order to contribute to the establishment of a possible International Civilian Office (ICO), including a European Union Special Representative component, the Council established an ICO Preparation Team in September 2006. In order to prepare a future ESDP mission in Kosovo an EU Planning Team (EUPT Kosovo) was set up in April 2006. In December 2006, the European Council adopted the Crisis Management Concept for a future ESDP mission to Kosovo focusing on the broader field of the rule of law. This mission will be the largest and most complex civilian ESDP mission to date. The planning of the mission is going forward on the basis of cooperation with local authorities and international stakeholders, in particular with UNMIK on transition arrangements, with the OSCE on training and monitoring and with NATO/KFOR on security issues (consultations on practical aspects of the future cooperation between the ESDP mission and KFOR in theatre have taken place on a technical level). EUPT Kosovo also cooperates closely with NGOs/CSOs active in Kosovo.

(55) The European Commission is supporting the re-appointment process of Kosovar judges and prosecutors through a significant RRM contribution. The project, co-funded by the US, is intended to contribute to the establishment of an independent and professional judiciary and prosecution service to administer Kosovo's justice system in a professional and transparent manner.

(56) The European Union Police Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina (**EUPM**) continues to assist the local police forces to progress towards best European practices. Its new mandate, adopted in December 2005, focuses more specifically on supporting the police reform process and on developing and consolidating local capacity and regional cooperation in the fight against organized crime. Through the EU-led military mission in BiH, **Operation EUFOR-Althea**, the EU contributes to the maintenance of the safe and secure environment. Cooperation with NATO in respect of operation Althea has continued. In February 2007, the EU decided to reduce EUFOR's size but keep an appropriate military presence as part of its overall engagement in BiH.

(57) Since the end of the war in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the European Commission has been providing financial support to achieve a secure and stable environment in the country. EC funding has not only been supporting the Office of the High Representative. It has also had a direct impact regarding the promotion of democracy and human rights, governance and the rule of law. In 2006 support in the areas of justice included training of judges and prosecutors, establishment of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council and support to the BiH War Crimes Chamber. In the area of border management, this has included the construction of border-crossings, training of the State Border Police and other agencies. Further support has been provided i. a. in the area of asylum, migration and civil protection and support to civil society development, public administration, environment, education, media, economy and trade.

## Eastern Europe and Central Asia

(58) The EU continued its efforts to promote the resolution of the **Transnistria conflict** through the activity of the EU Special Representative for Republic of Moldova and the participation of the EU in the work of the so-called 5+2 mechanism on conflict resolution. The ongoing implementation of the EU-Moldova ENP Action Plan has been a further contribution to promote the reform process and fight poverty in Moldova. The biggest EU assistance project in the region is the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), funded from the RRM and then under TACIS (Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States).

The objective of EUBAM is to help enhance the capacities of the Moldovan and Ukrainian services for border and customs controls and border surveillance along their common border, including on the Transnistrian section. Improved controls along the Moldovan-Ukrainian border should reduce illicit cross-border flows, including of weapons, drugs or trafficked human beings, while legitimate flows will be facilitated. The prolongation of EUBAM provides further impetus to improve the situation in the border areas.

(59) Over the reporting period, the EU devoted particular attention to the region of the **Southern Caucasus**. The EU Special Representative, having a political mandate to contribute to conflict prevention and assist with conflict settlement in the region, continued his work with a special focus on the resolution of the frozen conflicts (Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia and Abkhazia). The ENP Action Plans adopted in November 2006 will contribute to supporting democratic development, human rights, rule of law and good governance, socio-economic reform, fight against poverty and administrative capacity building. New assistance programmes under the European Neighbourhood Instrument was agreed for the period 2007-10 to provide financial support for the implementation of the ENP Action Plans. The short term measures (including confidence building measures) adopted by the PSC in December 2006 and March 2007 provide support to conflict resolution in Georgia. The extension of the mandate of EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia until 29 February 2008 provides room to advice on strategic level and follow-up on the implementation of border security reforms.

(60) As the largest donor in the region, the EU, together with the UN and the OSCE, continues to support the peaceful resolution of Georgia's internal conflicts in **Abkhazia** and **South Ossetia**. Existing projects aim at improving the living conditions of the population and creating the conditions for the dignified return of internally displaced person, as well as facilitating progress in a constructive dialogue between opposing social groups. In January 2007 the Commission and the EU Special Representative for the Southern Caucasus carried out a mission at expert level to Georgia including conflict areas with a view to identify a new set of measures aimed at restoring a better climate of trust among the parties to the two conflicts. Based on recommendations of this mission, PSC has decided on appropriate short term measures (cf. § 58). Internal conflicts in Georgia are also regularly included in the EU political dialogue with Russia.

(61) Throughout the reporting period, the EU has been intensively acting to enhance stability and promote cooperation in **Central Asia**. The EU was especially active in view of the protracted political crisis in the Kyrgyz Republic, has been trying to achieve improvements in the human rights situation in Uzbekistan following the Andijan events, and with Turkmenistan, following the change of leadership. The first meeting of the EU-Troika with Central Asian Partners at foreign minister level in Astana on 27/28 March 2007 clearly underlined the EU's interest in strengthening cooperation with the Central Asian partners. The meeting aimed at an exchange of views about the EU-Central Asian Strategy to be adopted by the European Council in June 2007. This strategy will provide a solid framework for further intensifying relations between the EU and the countries of Central Asia.

(62) The European Commission makes intensive efforts in the region in the areas of border control, rule of law, awareness raising about election rights and promotion of national dialogue. Effective border controls are especially important in the region for security reasons – notably a rise in cross border crime and drug trafficking, arms trafficking and trafficking in human beings as well as for economic development. The Commission is undertaking a Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA), which seeks to promote an Integrated Border Management (IBM). In the Ferghana Valley, BOMCA has provided equipment to ten Kyrgyz border posts on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, and new border crossing facilities are being built. On the Uzbek-Tajik border, BOMCA has provided alternative means for securing the Uzbek border to allow a resumption of the national demining effort. A Consortium of EU Member States was created to provide technical guidance to BOMCA, and to encourage co-ordination of border assistance. In addition, a border management intervention for the Afghan-Tajik border, BOMBAF (Border Management for Badakhshan, Afghanistan), was launched.

(63) In relation to **Tajikistan** EC support has focused on the northern Ferghana Valley. The EIDHR democratisation support was aimed at raising awareness about election rights of citizens before the Presidential elections in Nov 2006, and training women-leaders to take part in local elections. The EU also provides political support to the UN Tajikistan Office for Peace-Building which promoted national dialogue between political representatives of the government and opposition. In addition, support was given to the OSCE, including assistance to the OSCE/ODIHR election observation efforts.

(64) Following the pro-reforms and anti-presidential demonstrations in **Kyrgyzstan** in April/May 2006 and the resulting moves towards constitutional reform, the EU under the RRM decided to finance a project aimed at the strengthening of the Kyrgyz Parliament and governmental legal services in the law-drafting process. The objective is to strengthen national legislation, the rule of law and to ensure the legal security of the population.

### **The Mediterranean and the Middle East**

(65) Based on its five year programme, the **Euro-Mediterranean Partnership** (Barcelona Process) has considerably contributed to the enhancement of security, promotion of dialogue and reform processes in the region. The 8th Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in last November took stock of the sectoral Euromed Ministerial Meetings and agreed to a work programme of activities for 2007, which sees an emphasis on the fields of social dialogue, energy efficiency, education, migration, the Euromed Youth Parliament and the exchange of experiences in the area of elections.

(66) The EU has continued its active engagement in the **Middle East Peace Process**. After the decision not to provide direct support to the Hamas government in spring 2006, it developed a Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) which assures the delivery of fuel and clean water in the Palestinian Territories. The TIM has also provided social allowances directly to citizens in need, reaching almost 1 million people. These activities, which bring together the efforts of multiple donors, contribute to diminishing tensions and potential conflict in the Palestinian Territories and have helped prevent a slide into a full humanitarian crisis. In parallel, the EU has continued its support to Palestinian refugees.

(67) The **EU Border Assistance Mission in Rafah**, extended in November 2006 for further six months, has had a positive effect on relieving the humanitarian situation in Gaza by facilitating the opening of the Rafah Crossing Point. It has also proved, with the work of the Kerem Shalom Liaison Office, that Israeli and Palestinian officials can efficiently work together thanks to a third-party presence. Since June 2006 the Government of Israel has restricted the opening of the Rafah Crossing Point for security reasons.

With the contribution of the European Commission, EUBAM Rafah is facilitating Palestinian customs capacity building projects and the upgrading of the terminal infrastructures in order to allow the passage of vehicles and possibly of goods towards Egypt. On 23 May 2007 the Council agreed on an extension of EUBAM Rafah mandate for an additional year.

(68) **EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories** (EUPOL COPPS) has, during the reporting period, continued to contribute to facilitate peace and ease tension. Given the outcome of the Palestinian legislative elections of early 2006 and subsequent Quartet statements, the Mission has scaled down its active involvement with the Palestinian Civil Police and adapted its activities in line with the Quartet principles.

(69) The European Union was actively involved in looking for a solution to last year's military conflict in **Lebanon**. It contributed to the cease fire and to the adoption of UNSCR 1701 which created the ground for negotiating a long lasting solution to the inherent problems in the country. The European Union was the first international actor to bring humanitarian assistance and help in the first post-conflict relief. The EU financed evacuation of EU and third country nationals, humanitarian aid and shelters and is involved in reconstruction projects in areas affected by the conflict. The EC is providing substantial financial support to demining and unexploded ordnance clearance actions in southern Lebanon and decided to provide additional funding through the 2007 – 2010 National Indicative Programme. In the area of security sector reform, EC support is targeting mainly the criminal justice system, in close coordination with Member States' activities.

(70) In **Jordan** specific EU attention is given to the fight against extremism, with continued support to the dissemination of the "Amman message", issued in November 2004, seeking to reveal a message of tolerance and humanity; rejecting extremism as a deviation from Islamic beliefs. At the regional level, fight against radicalisation and inter faith dialogue is being supported.

(71) From 2003 to 2006, € 720 mio were allocated by the EC to assist **Iraq** with reconstruction and humanitarian needs. Against the difficult security situation in Iraq, Community assistance has focused on the rehabilitation of basic services, job creation and support to the political process, including the various elections. It is also promoting a human rights culture in Iraq through training of Iraqi civil society organisations.

The increasing deterioration in security has led to large scale migration both within the country and across the borders. While the situation requires careful monitoring, EC funding to alleviate the conditions for displaced persons has been provided. Negotiations for a Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Iraq were opened in 2006. The **EU's Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq** EUJUST LEX was extended until the end of December 2007. The objective of this mission is to address the urgent needs in the Iraqi criminal justice system through providing training for high and middle level officials in senior management and criminal investigation. To date, over 1000 Iraqi senior officials from police, judiciary and penitentiary have been trained in an integrated fashion in the EU. In addition, first work experience secondments for Iraqi penitentiary officials have been implemented. The mission will continue to provide training courses and work experience secondments to Iraqi officials throughout 2007.

## **Africa**

(72) Following the adoption of the **EU Strategy for Africa** the EU has further stepped up its efforts and support to African counterparts at all stages of the conflict cycle, from conflict prevention to conflict management, resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

The implementation of the policies outlined and the commitments made in the EU Strategy are now well underway. The next step is the adoption of a Joint EU-Africa Strategy currently under discussion between the EU and the AU. It is intended that the Joint EU-Africa Strategy be adopted by Heads of State and Governments at the second EU-Africa Summit, which will be held in Lisbon in late 2007. This Joint Strategy will provide a commonly agreed framework and a shared vision for future cooperation between the two continents. The consultations between EU and African partners in Troika Format ahead of the EU/Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting in May 2007 provided an opportunity to further develop common understanding of key issues and priorities for the EU-Africa partnership, including in the areas of peace and security.

(73) In order to ensure coherence of EU support to **African Peace and Security Architecture**, an EU concept for strengthening African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution (CPMR) of conflicts was prepared. The Concept paper, covering both civilian and military elements, highlights the progress made in recent years by African organisations in developing capabilities in conflict prevention, management and resolution.

While this development has been owned and led by the Africans, the EU has played an important supporting role through the crisis management instruments, efforts of individual Member States and, in the case of EC, mainly through the African Peace Facility (APF). The Concept paper aims at providing an overall framework for enhanced and coordinated EU support for African partners, primarily the African Union (AU) and Africa's sub-regional organisations (SROs), in improving their ability to prevent, manage and resolve crises and conflicts on the continent.

(74) The EU financially supports the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** in preserving and consolidating peace and security and promoting good governance in West Africa. Under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF support it is assisting the elaboration of a comprehensive conflict prevention strategy, electoral observation missions electoral assistance, financing of a mediation fund with the Offices of the ECOWAS Special Representative in Guinea-Bissau, Togo and Liberia have benefited from EC support in their operational work. Additional support for shuttle-diplomacy such as the one undertaken in light of the crisis in Guinea in early 2007 have also been provided, as well as activities to reduce the availability and the trafficking of small arms and light weapons. In implementing this assistance, Conflict Prevention Experts are supporting ECOWAS in managing its operations, including studies, meetings, training, etc.

(75) In relation to the **Economic Community of Central African States**, the EC is supporting a capacity building programme, which started early 2007 with the arrival of the technical assistance in Libreville. The main activities the project foresees are support to the MARAC (Mécanisme d'alerte rapide – early warning mechanism), support to political dialog and mediation, as well as capacity building for non-state actors in the field of conflict prevention. This project will be implemented in close coordination with initiatives at the Pan-African level.

(76) In response to a request from the UN and following adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1671 of 25 April 2006 and an EU Council Joint Action on 27 April 2006, the EU deployed a military mission to **DR Congo** (EUFOR RD Congo) in support of MONUC during the Congolese election process. The successful conclusion of the Congolese election process required close political contacts throughout the entire process, notably by the High Representative. The EUFOR RD CONGO operation terminated as foreseen on 30 November 2006.

The combination of the EU's political role in conjunction with its military, police and SSR instruments was orchestrated coherently and to great effect. In 2006, the Commission and the Council Secretariat prepared a comprehensive EU approach to SSR in the DRC to ensure complementarity and coherence between actions undertaken under the first and second pillar. The EUSR has played an important role in the overall process.

(77) The mission **EUSEC RD Congo** has been fulfilling its mandate in the field of Security Sector Reform since May 2005. Following the installation of the newly elected government in February 2007, the security situation remains tense and EUSEC RD Congo must continue to give priority to assisting Congolese authorities in carrying out the integration process of combatants from former factions. The mission's technical project on improving the chain of payments of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in the DRC has made significant progress in achieving the modernisation of the administration including through the provision of Communication and Information systems. The payment of salaries for the personnel of the integrated brigades is ensured more regularly although further improvement remains necessary, in particular to ensure full separation between the chain of command and the chain of payment. Preparations are underway to allow the continuation of EUSEC RD Congo with a new focus gradually placed on helping the Government to restructure and reconstruct its armed forces.

In relation to defence reform, support for regular payment of soldiers, through a chain of payments project was provided as well as health and humanitarian support for families of soldiers within the integrated brigades. This project will be followed up by similar project in 2007 under the Stability Instrument.

(78) The **EU's police mission in DR Congo**, EUPOL KINSHASA, has primarily been focusing on monitoring and mentoring of an Integrated Police Unit (IPU). This task is now close to completion. The EUPOL Kinshasa coordination support element was set up to support the election and transition process in DRC from 1 July 2006 to 30 March 2007. It aimed at assisting in the coordination of the Congolese crowd control units in the capital over the elections. It included 28 additional police officers from EU Member States and from two African countries. The EUPOL Kinshasa coordination support element developed a close coordination with EUFOR RD Congo, the EU military operation also deployed in support of the elections in DRC. Since the beginning of this year, EUPOL has been assisting in reviewing the police legislation and the doctrinal framework in order to lay the groundwork for longer term capacity building.

Planning is underway concerning the next ESDP police mission and its justice interface, which should be deployed in DRC as of 1 July 2007. Its mandate should be to assist the Police Nationale Congolaise (PNC) in its nascent reform and restructuring process and to support the PNC interaction with the justice sector.

(79) In order to embed the democratic process, the Commission together with the World Bank led the efforts of the International Community to draw up a **Compact on Governance** with the new DRC authorities. **Security Sector Reform** included a further package to support vital judicial reform institutions as part of a large governance programme. Support to police reform (the establishment and expert technical assistance to the Groupe Mixte de Réflexion sur la Réforme et la Réorganisation de la Police Nationale Congolaise) will be followed up in 2007 by support for a police census and police human resource management. The Commission has also continued its support for the **DDR** process in the country, which is linked to the overall support to the Great Lakes Multi-country Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme. In addition, support to DRC **civil society capacity** building was provided.

(80) In relation to **Burundi**, the EU is contributing to the efforts of the UN Peace Building Commission. In 2006 the EC engaged in a political dialogue with the highest authorities of the state with regard to a peaceful resolution of conflicts and the end of armed conflict and the putting in place of sectoral policies that should lead in 2007 to the establishment of a formal and permanent political dialogue between the EU and Burundi as foreseen in Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement. In the beginning of 2007, the Commission provided food to 3,000 ex-combatants of the armed group, the Forces Nationales de Liberation (FNL), for four months. The EC is financing numerous NGO/CSO projects with regard to the peaceful resolution of ethnic conflicts.

(81) In **Congo Brazzaville** the European Union particularly it funds a programme of weapons collection and destruction for development. In addition, the EU supports the government in the elaboration of a national programme for demobilization and reinsertion of ex-combatants and will partially fund it. The aim of the program is to reinsert 30,000 ex-combatants.

(82) In **Uganda**, efforts are being undertaken to encourage the resumption of peace talks. In conflict-affected Northern Uganda, the EC is funding resettlement and rehabilitation programmes including the reintegration of child soldiers and war-affected communities into society.

(83) The EU, through the EUSR, has been actively engaged in **Sudan** in support of a peaceful settlement of the Darfur crisis. Specific focus was given to bringing the non-signatories of the DPA (Darfur Peace Agreement) on board. The High Representative has placed particular efforts to bringing together UN, AU, US and Sudan representatives in order to bring the peace process forward. Specific focus was given to bringing the non-signatories of the DPA (Darfur Peace Agreement) on board. All these actions were embedded in the overall goal of encouraging the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and preserving the unity of Sudan. As part of these efforts capacity building support is provided to the AU through the RRM in order for it to play its role of guardian of the DPA. It covers support to the DPA Implementation Team that supervises, monitors and supports the DPA implementation and assists in the promotion of dialogue with all Darfur stakeholders, including non-signatory groups. RRM support also promoted capacity and confidence building activities targeting civil society organisations as well as traditional and community leadership with the aim of strengthening their role in resolving the crisis. In addition, under the EIDHR, the EC funds several projects focused on Civil Society and Community organisations in order to promote a culture of peace in different areas of Sudan including the Nuba Mountains, the East and the South.

(84) The EU continued to support the African Union Mission in the **Darfur region of Sudan** (AMIS) in the framework of ESDP by providing Military and Civilian Police experts, trainers and advisors, to AMIS and to the Cease Fire Commission, as well as strategic lift, material support. Funding was made available through the APF managed by the Commission, which contributed €150 mio to AMIS, with the total contribution reaching €242 mio since 2004. This support has been regularly extended over the past two years, most recently until 30 June 2007.

(85) In addition, the Commission provided €12 mio to the **Interim Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme** in Sudan. The main objective of the programme is to set up and build the capacity of DDR institutions and civil society, while initiating basic disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes.

This includes preparation for Force Reduction negotiations and planning within a SSR framework and support to mediation, integration and demobilization processes.

(86) The Somali peace process is embedded in the broader EU **Horn of Africa regional strategy** where Somalia remains a test case for regional stability. The Commission has taken a lead in sustaining a political and reconciliation process in **Somalia**. In September 2006, in the context of the Khartoum II round of negotiations, a European Task Force was set up to sustain the Khartoum dialogue process between the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) and the Union of Islamic Courts. As a result of this process the EU has adopted a comprehensive strategy resting on three pillars: (i) support to the political process of national reconciliation; (ii) support to the security sector; (iii) institutional capacity-building and governance support. As part of this strategy the EC shall contribute to the financing of AMISOM through the African Peace Facility. Almost € 20 mio are earmarked for Security Sector Reform and DDR programmes.

(87) In a situation of increasing instability linked to the fragile internal situation in **Chad**, as well as to the context of the Darfur conflict, the EU was actively involved in political, technical and financial support aiming at stabilizing the situation and creating the conditions of more sustainable development. Thus, the Troika mission of April 2007 gave a strong political signal against any attempts of unconstitutional change of government.

(88) In the **Central African Republic**, continued EC support has been provided to the Force Multinationale en Centrafrique (FOMUC) of the Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC). The mission is to provide peace and stability to the country and to contribute to the restructuring of the Central African armed forces.

(89) In **Liberia** the EC provided support for the training of 1,350 recruits by the National Police Training Academy in order to meet the target of a total of 3,500 police officers to be trained by mid-2007 as agreed by the Government of Liberia and the UN. The EC has also supported Liberia's Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration and Rehabilitation Programmes through the UNDP Trust Fund and with additional support to vocational training and job placement as well as the demobilisation and reintegration of children formally associated with armed groups.

Following the lifting of the UN Security Council sanctions on timber exports from Liberia, the EC has been assisting the Liberia Forest Initiative to enhance the protection, governance and transparent use of natural resources of forests in the country.

(90) In **Sierra Leone**, significant progress has been made in securing peace and improving security as well as in consolidating the state authority throughout the country. Apart from support to reconstruction and decentralisation, the EC has been supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and capacity building of non-state actors and the independent media. It is also preparing support for of the Legislative and Presidential elections scheduled for July 2007. Several outstanding issues in the areas of security, governance, justice, reconciliation and socio economic development have been identified during the discussions on Sierra Leone at the UN Peace Building Commission. The future DFID/EC joint strategy takes this into account.

(91) In the framework of the national SSR strategy presented by the government of **Guinea Bissau** in November 2006 the EC finalized a DDR program for the veterans of the independence war, and a SSR program, for those who will leave the army and the police. Additional SSR support has been earmarked under the 10th EDF. In relation to SSR, support is also provided to justice reform, parliamentary reform and the reform of the civil services.

(92) In **Guinea**, following the closure of Article 96 consultations under the Cotonou agreement, the EU decided that projects in support of decentralisation and consolidation of free media, good governance, civil society, strengthening of democracy and human rights could be launched. The project launched at the end of 2006 aimed at allowing free and fair legislative elections to take place in 2007. Although political instability and lack of political will in the country have prevented more substantial progress so far, new projects in support of civil society, governance and decentralisation are being undertaken.

(93) Following the coup d'Etat of August 2005 in **Mauritania**, in the framework of consultations under Art 96 of the Cotonou agreement Mauritanian transitional authorities committed to return to a democratic regime within 22 months.

The reform efforts of the authorities have been supported by the EC. In particular EDF funds were re-oriented to support civil society, a reform of the judiciary, decentralisation and local finances and the electoral process. The migration crisis of 2006 also led to the launching of the first structured dialogue under Art 13 of the Cotonou agreement and to the implementation of a Rapid Reaction Mechanism project to tackle this problem.

(94) In relation to **Nigeria**, the EU is providing support to the Cameroon-Nigeria demarcation project to clarify border lines. In the area of governance, the EC is providing support to anti-corruption and institutional reform programmes and plans to support the justice sector including the police. Conflict prevention support is also provided to the management and resolution of Sharia influenced conflicts in communities in Northern Nigeria and capacity building for local NGOs/CSOs.

(95) In **Côte d'Ivoire** the EC has supported the DDR process by setting up cantonment and transit sites, as well as HIV/AIDS prevention programmes for ex-combatants. In the area of reconciliation and promotion of human rights and justice, the EC has been providing assistance to a number of projects. The EC is also the main funding institution of a project implemented by the Prime Minister's Office that aims at holding mobile court in order to overcome the paralysation of the legal system concerning the issuing of citizenship certificates. The EC has also provided support to the electoral process.

## Asia

(96) EU engagement in crisis management and conflict prevention in **Asia** was underpinned by an extensive network of policy consultation and co-ordination on global and regional issues with the EU's strategic partners in the region (China, India and Japan), as well as with other Asian partners, including ASEAN. EU continued high level "strategic dialogues" on Asia issues, initiated in 2005, with China, Japan and USA. One of key subjects discussed in this framework was the DPRK nuclear issue and the situation in the Korean Peninsula. The EU held the first high level "Security Dialogue" with India, which saw a useful exchange of views on global and regional security issues, including dialogue on issues related to peace building and conflict prevention in South Asia. In operational terms the EU continues to support a number of peace processes through substantial support to promote dialogue, mediation, SSR, DDR, natural resource management and the promotion of democracy and human rights.

(97) EU reaffirmed its commitment to long-term support for **Afghanistan**. The core principles of EU engagement were to promote Afghan leadership, responsibility and ownership and to foster the development of an Afghan State. The Afghanistan Compact and the Joint EU - Afghanistan Political Declaration served as a comprehensive framework for EU engagement in Afghanistan. Recognizing that progress on the rule of law is essential to the security and long term stability in Afghanistan, the EU is about to finalise the planning of an ESDP mission in the field of policing with linkages to the wider rule of law. EUPOL Afghanistan will work towards an Afghan police force in local ownership, trusted by Afghan citizens, that respects human rights and operates within the framework of the rule of law. Particular attention will be paid to ensuring complementarity and mutual reinforcement with activities of the European Community. Consultations with NATO on technical support by ISAF to EUPOL Afghanistan in theatre have taken place on technical level. This mission will also complement ongoing EC activities, in particular in support to the Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA), which pays for police salaries and has been instrumental in providing support for the new Afghan National Police, as well as its proposed engagement with reform of the justice sector. This work is being designed to dovetail with the ESDP mission.

(98) In 2006 EC decided to allocate EUR 10 mio to fund civilian projects to be implemented through **Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs)** led by EU Member States (EU Member States currently lead 9 out of 25 PRTs). It will help strengthen governance and reconstruction efforts in the provinces. In the framework of ongoing public administration reform in early 2007 support has been provided to the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary and the Attorney General's Office. In addition, the EC's external assistance programme for Afghanistan is strongly focused on addressing root causes of violent conflict, notably by improving social and economic conditions and providing alternative livelihoods, in particular in the country's northeast, an area that has long been affected by opium poppy cultivation and the narcotics industry.

(99) As co-chair of the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of **Sri Lanka**, the EU continued its support to the peace process and urged both sides to the conflict to return to the negotiating table. Immediate EU priorities for Sri Lanka were to press for an end to hostilities and human rights violations and to ensure protection for NGOs/CSOs active in the country.

Moreover, the EC has provided support for the establishment and operation of an International Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP), which will monitor the working of the national Commission of Inquiry (CoI) into human rights violations committed since 1 August 2005. In addressing the root causes of the violent conflict which has escalated further in 2006, the EC has mobilised support for building an inclusive, nation-wide and sustainable civil society movement for peace in Sri Lanka in the form of assistance to a 'National Anti-War Front' (NAWF). The NAWF is facilitating the mobilisation and participation of citizens through education, dialogue, information sharing and awareness-raising.

(100) Important political changes took place in **Nepal**, when the royal regime was ousted and 10 years of violent conflict brought to an end by the signing of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement. In coordination with international partners, the EU supports the ongoing democratic transition and the peace process through political instruments, development and peace-building assistance as well as support for political parties and civil society. In addition the implementation of the two Conflict Mitigation Packages in support of peace building, rule of law and human rights in Nepal began in early 2007. The new Country Strategy Paper for Nepal will also have an important peace building component. The EU is preparing an Election Observation Mission and further assistance to support the election process and allow for free and fair Constituent Assembly elections.

(101) The EU has fielded an Election Observation Mission in **Bangladesh**. The mission was subsequently suspended due to the postponement of parliamentary elections. However, the EU remains ready to assist reforms which embed standards of human rights and good governance ahead of the elections.

(102) The EU remained active in managing the post-conflict situation in the **Indonesian province of Aceh**. The civilian Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) successfully completed its mandate on 15 December 2006. The collaboration between the EU and five countries from ASEAN, Norway and Switzerland has contributed in a significant manner to this success. In parallel, the European Commission launched a comprehensive support package to the peace process with a total of € 285 mio towards emergency, reconstruction and support to the peace process programmes in Aceh.

This included immediate reintegration needs of ex-GAM combatants and political prisoners through cash and in-kind support and transport to homes as well as support to communities of return, in terms of small infrastructure and livelihood projects. In support of longer-term needs, the EC has put together a package to facilitate local elections, justice sector reform, police reform and local governance, overseen by the “Europe House” in Banda Aceh. The EU also deployed an EU Election Observation Mission to the elections of a provincial governor and district heads on 11 December 2006. The 70-strong EU Election Observation Mission was another visible sign of EU support to confirming democracy in Aceh.

(103) In the spring of 2006 a serious political crisis shook **Timor-Leste**. The EU was quick to respond, not only with considerable humanitarian assistance, but also with a series of other measures aiming to support stabilisation after the crisis. The measures have included the appointment of a Commission Special Representative for Timor Leste to support the ongoing political process, with special attention to strengthening democracy, good governance and conflict prevention, and a decision to open a fully fledged EC Delegation in 2007. Additionally, a stabilisation programme under the Rapid Reaction Mechanism has provided both high-level mediation and technical support to a national dialogue process in Timor-Leste, which contributed to reduce tensions between the key national players and political forces during late 2006 and early 2007. A further EC programme has supported short-term employment schemes of Timorese youth - many of whom had taken an active part in street violence during 2006. In addition, assistance to governance and institutional capacity-building was allocated, including support for the organization of elections to ensure free, fair, credible and sustainable electoral systems and processes.

The EC will also deploy an electoral observation mission for the Timorese Presidential and legislative elections in spring and summer 2007.

(104) In the **Philippines** the EU is making a significant contribution through the RRM to support the peace process through the Mindanao Trust Fund for sustainable development and the budget line "Aid to the Uprooted People" to facilitate the rehabilitation and integration of internally displaced peoples into the socio-economic mainstream. The EU has indicated its willingness to consider further support to the peace process, including in the area of DDR.

(105) In relation to **Cambodia**, the EU has contributed to conflict prevention by addressing root-causes of conflict. On land disputes and indigenous people, the EC-funded an "Indigenous Minority Rights Project" which provided support of indigenous people's organizations and networks through regular meetings of indigenous people at regional and national levels. In addition, the EC-funded project "Empowering Local Communities" aimed to build capacity at grassroots level and raise awareness among local communities to advocate for their rights and to work to resolve conflicts. Impunity is a long-standing issue in Cambodia. Therefore the EU has also provided legal aid and supported rule of law advocacy action and efforts to strengthening the role of lawyers in Cambodia.

### **Latin America**

(106) At the Vienna Summit of 12 May 2006, the EU gave new impetus to its relations with Latin America. In the region the EC is currently engaged in and supportive to the ongoing fight against drugs, such as alternative development programmes in Bolivia and Peru, reducing poverty, the effort for more efficient governance and SSR in Mexico, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama and funding projects on furthering discussion on structural peace building issues such as in Bolivia, and Colombia and Peru.

(107) In 2006 the EU continued to pay close attention to the many underlying factors which are contributing to tensions in **Bolivia**, in the new framework created by the election of the country's first indigenous president, Evo Morales. The activities under the RRM aimed at promoting political dialogue and consensus-building particularly in the run-up to the establishment of the Constituent Assembly in August. These were complemented by an EU Election Observation Mission which accompanied the Assembly elections and the national referendum on regional autonomy. In 2006 the EU also sent an Election Observation Mission to **Venezuela**, the second in the space of just over a year in this deeply polarised country, where the EU's independent assessment of the electoral process makes a tangible contribution to conflict prevention. In December 2006 a decision was taken to use the RRM to fund a pilot project in **Peru** aimed at supporting the consolidation of democratic governance by empowering regional governments, municipalities and social civil society stakeholders to prevent conflict and violence in three districts characterised by multiple causes of conflict.

(108) In **Colombia**, activities continued to focus on addressing the root causes of conflict through alternative development, justice sector reform and preventing the expansion of violence through peace laboratories, de-mining and fight against land mines proliferation, promotion and protection of human rights and assisting victims. The RRM support to the Justice and Peace Law in Colombia focused on helping individual victims and victims' organisations to seek legal redress. Assistance was also provided to the newly-created National Commission for Reconciliation and Reparations in drawing up a global strategy for national reconciliation and supporting the design of strategies for communities receiving demobilised paramilitaries.

(109) In **Nicaragua** attention was paid to the elections and peaceful transition of government. Given the deep political polarisation the EC, through the RRM, funded an analysis of the root causes of tensions which provided the grounds for a targeted policy dialogue. Three main areas of conflict prevention activities were identified: elections, land tenure and property rights. Those areas will be targeted in a governance and democracy project. During the second half of 2006, the EU sent an EU Electoral Observation Mission to the country for the legislative and presidential elections which helped ensuring a peaceful transition.