

EPLO News

Stephanie Broughton is EPLO's acting director, while Nicolas Beger is on sick leave (10 May-10 June 2007). Emails and requests can be sent to her [directly](#) or through Nicolas's email.

[Sofia Lemmetyinen](#) has taken over Meike Rodekamp's tasks concerning

RoCS II project and the planning of the future EPLO database.

EPLO office has also welcomed a new intern, [Dominique Gassauer](#), who will be joining the team during the summer months. Dominique also assists Stephanie with thematic issues and cluster activities.

General Assembly Update

At the beginning of May, EPLO representatives from Member Organisations gathered in Brussels for the biannual General Assembly meeting. Here are some of main developments:

- EPLO welcomed two new Member Organisations: Toledo International Centre for Peace and Partners for Democratic Change International.

- The EPLO Steering Committee said goodbye and a heartfelt thanks to Steve Utterwulghé (SFCG), Pauliina Arola (CMI), Matteo Menin (EN.CPS), and Laura Davis (ICTJ). Martina Weitsch (QCEA) retired as EPLO Treasurer only to be swiftly elected Vice President. Antje Herrberg (Interpeace) was elected EPLO President, and Nick Killick (International Alert) took the reins as Treasurer. Claire Hickson (Saferworld) will be joined by new SC members Annelies Claessens (SFCG); Alessandro Rossi (NP); and Laurent Goetschel (Swisspeace).

- The GA approved a new fee structure based on an extensive review of the current system.

- EPLO is moving ahead on the database project, and Sofia Lemmetyinen will be the EPLO point person. (See "[EPLO Database](#)")

- The GA affirmed an interest in continuing the "cluster" method of working on thematic activities which was piloted as a result of the previous GA. However, members expressed a need to clearly identify a small number of focus areas as to avoid spreading ourselves too thinly. They identified "high engagement" issues (Gender and Development), "lower engagement" (Climate Change/Energy; Human Rights and Peace; and Investment) and the continuation of work on the EU-Africa Strategy, which will likely conclude at the end of the year.

**NEXT EPLO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
5 AND 6 NOVEMBER**

FP7

The proposal of the consortium led by Swisspeace, in which EPLO and some Member Organisations are taking part, has been submitted on

10 May. The proposal is called CIVILPEACE and is focused on civil society contribution to peace promotion.

Next CISP Phone Conference 11 June at 15:00 (Brussels time)

Next GENDER CLUSTER Phone Conference 19 June at 15:00 (Brussels time)

CALL +32 2 289 53 33 — code 9421# - Please tell the office if you are participating

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CISP

The CISP working group had a phone conference on 14 May. CISP discussed the RoCS report and conference (see below) as well as the EPLO Non Paper on EU Civilian Headline Goal. Both documents can be found on the internal website.

A report was made on the meeting an EPLO delegation had with Orlando Veiga, Portuguese CIVCOM representative, and Ana Gomes,

Portuguese MEP, in preparation for the Portuguese Presidency. Orlando Veiga expressed his interest in continuing the civil society presentations in CIVCOM. EPLO will provide the Portuguese with a concrete proposal in the coming week, focusing on four countries/regions and civilian crisis management issues. A general email has been sent to all members for this purpose; if you want more information please contact [Philippe](#).

Funding for Peace

The EPLO Funding for Peace working group had a phone conference on 9 May to discuss the new Strategy Paper for the Instrument for Stability. We gathered comments on the document and produced an EPLO comments on the Strategy paper. These comments were used as a basis for the EPLO intervention in the European Parliament. EPLO was invited on

Wednesday 16 May by the working group of the European Parliament on the Instrument for Stability to present our views on the document. The same day, EPLO took part in the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) delegation to discuss the European Instrument on Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) with the European Parliament.

RoCS II

Meike Rodekamp left EPLO in the end of April and was replaced by [Sofia Lemmetynen](#) in May. Sofia will work for RoCS II till the end of August 2007.

CivCom presentations

The last presentation under the RoCS II cooperation with the German presidency was held 2 May. Alexander Mayer-Rieckh, the head of ICTJ's SSR Programme, spoke under the theme "Lessons Learned in Police and Justice Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

Berlin conference 20-21 June 2007

The deadline for confirming participation to RoCS II conference in Berlin was 9 May. However, if there are still interested persons among EPLO members, please contact [Andrea Muckhoff](#) directly, the project manager for Bertelsmann Foundation. The up-dated version of the conference programme can be found

[here](#) or on EPLO's website under latest news.

Drafting conference paper

CMI and EPLO are in a phase of drafting the conference paper for Berlin. After comments given by the RoCS Steering Committee, the Council representative Gyorgy Tatar and the Commission representative Nadim Karkutli on 10 May, it was decided that the conference paper will mostly focus on questions, which will be addressed in the panels in Berlin. The questions follow the structure of the recommendations endorsed by PSC in November 2006. EPLO members had the opportunity to share their input on the content of the paper through a CISP meeting organized 14 May. **EPLO encourages all CISP members to send comments on the draft report and the up-dated conference paper by the end of May. Questions and comments can be addressed to [Sofia](#).**

EPLO Database

Database Meeting 16 May and 21 May: During GA meeting 3 May, it was decided that EPLO members, who had any final comments on the thematic categories would share their ideas with Sofia. A phone conference was organized 16 May and the categories were

finalized. The final thematic categories will be shared with EPLO Steering Committee in due time. Work will continue on developing search mechanisms and drafting the MoU with Peaceworkers UK/International Alert.

Thematics

EU-Africa Strategy

Last week, the Ministerial Troikas of both the EU and AU met for the 8th time. The EU-Africa Strategy was at the top of the agenda, and the Ministers endorsed the outline as elaborated by the EU/Africa Expert Troika. The Expert Troika was also tasked with continuation of the drafting process in continued consultation with civil society with the expectation of approving an initial action plan in the second half of 2007. The Lisbon summit is still anticipated for December. The press release about the Ministerial meeting is available [here](#).

We anticipate that the endorsed outline will be made available for public comment eventually. However, we have obtained a leaked copy of an earlier draft. In general, it seems to say a lot of the things we hoped it would, but it is still very general and a bit vague in parts at this stage in the drafting process. Contact [Stephanie](#) if you would like a copy or would like to be added to the Africa cluster.

Gender

At the last GPS Group phone conference, the group discussed the two interesting conferences that took place in April and shared information on the status of on-going projects. Karen Barnes (International Alert) represented the EPLO GPS at the "Roadmap to 1325" conference organized by the German Women's Security Council and the Heinrich Boell Foundation, which was attended by several other EPLO GPS members. An issue highlighted at both this conference and the WIIS Germany conference was the importance of having a high level gender advisor in ESDP missions.

Giji Gya (ISIS-Europe) and Stephanie have organized meetings with several officials in the next two weeks to discuss the "1325 EU Partnership," which is the working name of the Taskforce prioritized by EPLO GPS. It is

also likely that GPS will be able to offer input on a Commission - Council joint communication. The GPS group continues to keep its collective eye on National Action Plans for 1325 implementation, an update of which will soon be available on the EPLO website.

Next Meeting: 19 June @ 15:00 (Brussels time).

Development

On 4 May 2007, DG DEV organized a brainstorming meeting for civil society organizations regarding the establishment of a new civil society advisory group. EPLO participated as a representative for the peacebuilding sector and was joined by other sectors like development (CONCORD), human rights (Amnesty International), fair trade (IFAT) and humanitarian aid (Red Cross) among others. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the terms of reference and the added value of such a group. The role of the group would include discussion and advocacy on themes and policy issues in the area of development. The majority of the participants wanted to limit the activity of the group to policy dialogue with DG DEV, whilst EPLO pointed out the possibility of treating content issues within this forum as well. A constructive discussion took place and led to a general agreement on the set-up and mandate - but not yet the name - of the group. The Chair Bernard Petit stressed the need for the group to meet every 3-4 months; unless particular issues need to be discussed earlier. The next group meeting will probably take place around 3rd week in June and will focus on Economic Partnership Agreements and the involvement of civil society from the South in discussions. An agenda of specific topics will soon be outlined. In case peacebuilding issues are dealt with, EPLO could be represented in the meetings. For more information, please contact [Stephanie](#).

Funding

European Neighbourhood: Promoting mutual awareness, understanding and cooperation between the EU and Asia, Latin America, the European Neighbourhood

Region and Russia.

(Reference: EuropeAid/125411/C/ACT/Multi)
Budget: 3 200 000 euros, open until 3 July 2007. [Click here](#) to view guidelines.

Funding

Nepal: Assistance to Vulnerable Groups and Communities most affected by the internal conflict (VCP) Nepal (Reference: EuropeAid/125388/L/ACT/NP) Budget: 6 750 000€, open until 29 July 2007. [Click here](#) to view guidelines.

News from/for Members

Events

Transcend: Conference on peace building and non-violent conflict transformation with Johan Galtung, 14 July (Berne, Switzerland). For more information, please contact [Pascal Gemperli](#).

International Alert: Perspectives on Peacebuilding: A discussion with Paddy Ashdown. 27 June 2007, 18:00 – 19:30, London. For more information, [click here](#).

Swisspeace on behalf of NCCR: [Workshop on Environmental Conflicts: Experiences from Africa and Central Asia](#), Basel. For more information, contact [Didier Peclard](#).

Jobs

International Alert: [Eurasia Programme Administrator](#) (6 months maternity leave cover). Deadline 28 May 2007.

ICTJ: [Programme Assistant](#), New York. Deadline 25 May 2007.

Nonviolent Peaceforce: [International Communications Director](#), Brussels or New Delhi. Deadline 31 May 2007. [Volunteer Accompaniers](#), Guatemala.

Saferworld: [Advocacy & Communications Project Coordinator](#) – maternity cover, London. Deadline 13 June 2007.

Training and courses

International Alert/Peaceworkers UK: 17 - 22 July 'Core Skills for Working in Conflict', level 2. This course is aimed to produce relevant experience training in conflict situations, creating future effective fieldworkers in the area of conflict resolution either in NGOs or other programmes in the field. Deadline for applications 18 June. For

more information, [click here](#).

ICTJ: Cape Town Transitional Justice Fellowship Programme

The Cape Town program involves three months of intensive study. Managed by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), the program is taught by senior staff from the IJR and the ICTJ, as well as visiting instructors. Deadline 31 May 2007. For more information, [click here](#).

The University of Utrecht Summer School 29 July - 10 August 2007

The University of Utrecht Summer School 2007 offers a course on Education for Peace, Human Rights, and Justice, which will be held 29 July—10 August 2007 in Utrecht, The Netherlands. [Click here](#) to read more.

Swisspeace: Training [Do no Harm](#), 25-26 June 2007, Bern.

Publications

[Analysis of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Recommendations for the Development of an Agenda Note d'Analyse](#), Ilhan Berkol, GRIP, 1 April 2007.

[The Good, the Bad and the Ugly – a Decade of Labour's arms exports](#), Saferworld, May 2007.

[Aid and Conflict in Uganda, Sarah Bayne & Intelligence in Kosovo, Jérôme Mellon](#), Saferworld, March 2007.

[Designing for Results: Integrating Monitoring and Evaluation in Conflict Transformation Programs & Watching The Wind: conflict resolution during South Africa's transition to democracy](#), Search for Common Ground.

EPLO Members

[Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management](#) - [Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network KATU](#) - [Crisis Management Initiative](#) - [European Centre for Conflict Prevention](#) - [European Network for Civil Peace Services](#) - [Field Diplomacy Initiative](#) - [German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management](#) - [Groupe de Recherche et d'Information sur la Paix et la Sécurité GRIP](#) - [International Alert](#) - [International Centre for Transitional Justice](#) - [Interpeace](#) - [ISIS Europe](#) - [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#) - [Partners for Democratic Change International](#) - [Pax Christi International & Life and Peace Institute](#) - [Peace Team Forum](#) - [Quaker Council for European Affairs](#) - [Saferworld](#) - [Search for Common Ground](#) - [Swisspeace](#) - [Toledo International Centre for Peace](#) - [World Vision](#)