



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 13 June 2006

10158/06

**CIVCOM 239
PESC 539
COSDP 453
RELEX 387
JAI 294
PROCIV 116
DEVGEN 164**

NOTE

From : Presidency
To: European Council

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 Violent Conflicts

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 agreed at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 13 June, to be submitted to the European Council.

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**Executive Summary**

In line with the fundamental values of the EU, the highest political priority will be given to improving the effectiveness and coherence of its external action in the field of conflict prevention, thereby also enhancing the preventive capabilities of the international community. (EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict, Göteborg Programme GP)

Five years after the adoption of the EU Programme on the Prevention of Violent Conflict, efforts led at that time by the late Anna Lindh merit a reflection on the conceptual achievements of Göteborg and its innovative tools and mechanisms. It is in the spirit of the Göteborg Programme and of Anna Lindh to equally reflect on the large benefits to be gained from analysing the challenges and what can be done to combine existing EU mechanisms for an even better impact on short, medium, and long-term peace and security

This report is split into two parts: the first part reflects generally on the evident achievements since 2001 and then along the 4 chapters of Göteborg on the areas where progress could still be made in the EU's ability to prioritise preventive action, combine all its relevant instruments, address cross-cutting issues, effectively mainstream conflict prevention into different policy areas, create a coherent policy framework, and build international partnerships. The second part gives an overview of the significant developments under Community Instruments, CFSP/ESDP, and individual Member States since the last report in June 2005. The report takes place following the conference on "What Future for EU Conflict Prevention? Five years after Göteborg and how to move on?", co-organised by the Austrian Presidency, the European Commission, and the European Peace-building Liaison Office (EPLO) on 3 May 2006.

In light of the review set out below, the EU will:

- Pursue the consequent implementation of the Göteborg Programme; improve the coherence of its actions; improve lesson-learning and monitoring of impact; strengthen the necessary capacities and apply conflict sensitivity as a guiding principle of all project cycle management in a more effective manner. Collaborative inter-institutional working and information sharing will remain essential.
- Strengthen EU coordination at field level between MS representations, Commission delegations, EUSRs and HoM on preventive action in situations of submerged or rising tension.
- 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.
- Strengthen conflict sensitive approaches, comprehensive conflict analysis and mainstreaming, including through staff to staff contacts with major international actors as well as more focus on training and the development of expertise in relevant areas of conflict prevention.
- Enhance cooperation and networking with non-state actors, in particular NGOs, academia and the private sector in the area of conflict prevention.
- Strengthen EU early warning mechanisms, through greater co-ordination and information sharing, between Member States, with the EU institutions, and with like-minded international partner, and by making more operational use of the EU Watchlist.
- Continue to work to strengthen the capacity of regional organisations and local and regional civil society in early warning, in addressing root-causes, in promoting dialogue and in reconciliation.

I

Implementation of the Göteborg Programme

1. The Göteborg Programme (GP) underlines the importance of addressing emerging and re-emerging violent conflict in a coherent manner, across the pillars of the EU. It especially emphasises the need for setting clearer political priorities, ensuring that early warning is followed by early action and that EU instruments for both long- and short-term prevention are strengthened. It also underlines the need to build effective international partnerships and increase co-operation if preventive action is going to succeed. As four detailed annual conflict prevention reports adopted by the European Council in 2002 to 2005 have shown, the EU has taken many concrete steps to strengthen the conflict prevention capacity of the Union and has achieved a large **number of specific tasks** in this field. Most notably these were:
 - The addressing of root-causes of conflict through work in the areas of natural resource management, including on conflict diamonds, timber and water, and in support of promoting human rights and democracy under the European Initiative on Democracy and Human Rights;
 - The prioritisation of conflict prevention and security in the European Neighbourhood Action Plans, in the pre-accession Stabilisation and Association Process, as well as through support to the AU and African sub-regional organisation;
 - The work on diminishing the spread of small arms and light weapons, and on supporting Security Sector Reform as well as Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of former combatants;
 - The watch-list and its follow up in the field of early action as well as the Rapid Reaction Mechanism;
 - The increase in EU civilian crisis management operations and their substantial contribution to peace and stability around the world;
 - The significant increase in civilian and military ESDP capabilities, and the enhancement of civil-military coordination;
 - Cooperation with international organisations, notably the UN, OSCE and the Council of Europe, and with conflict prevention NGOs.

Political priorities for preventive actions

2. Whilst recognising the need to respond to existing crises and engage in shorter-term crisis management, *successful conflict prevention relies on the preparedness to take action before a situation deteriorates into violence* (GP), preventing the outbreak and spreading of violent conflicts through early action and preventing the recurrence of violent conflict. *Development of policy options must start with clear political priorities and direction, set out through regular reviews of potential conflict areas* (GP).

3. The EU has shown significant political will to engage in crisis management and in conflict prevention, and has delivered in both spheres, increasing its impact considerably since 2001. However, both the political priority given to conflict prevention and the intrinsic connection between long term and short term approaches need to be continuously and sustainably translated into strategy and implementation. In addition, significant EU activities in the field of trade, development, and environment are not yet monitored and assessed enough for their contribution to conflict prevention and their conflict sensitive implementation. Obstacles to achieving this core part of the Göteborg Programme can, inter alia, be identified in the lack of:
 - information and knowledge on conflict prevention and the significant cost-saving it entails,
 - sufficiently focused conflict analysis as well as;
 - efficient implementation of coherent and comprehensive strategies building on an overall cross-pillar coordination in the area of external action.

4. Increasing the level of awareness and concrete knowledge on the long-term economic, political and development benefits of conflict prevention both in Member States and the EU institutions would contribute to stronger policy coherence between external trade, development and security policies. Higher expert knowledge on **conflict sensitivity is essential** for carrying out regular systematic conflict- and impact-analysis before, during and after any new programme or project occurring in conflict-prone areas are launched.

5. Conflict prevention and conflict resolution are essential elements of the European Union's overall policy on promoting **Human Rights** and democratisation around the world. The implementation of **UN resolution 1325** on women, peace, and security, and the EP's resolution (2000) and report (2006) on the situation of women in armed conflicts are not only needed for addressing the special needs of women in violent conflict, but also for enhancing the role of women in crisis management and conflict prevention including through greater gender balance in missions and project implementation as well as in supporting the participation of women at all levels in peace processes and in preventive action. Similarly the implementation of **UN resolution 1612** on children and armed conflicts would reaffirm the EU's strong commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of children, and in particular those affected by armed conflict and the need for further mainstreaming of the issue throughout the EU system. Finally, the implementation of UNSCR 1625 on conflict prevention in Africa is also relevant in this context.

6. In order to set a peace-building focus on the structural causes of conflict already existing EU-activities contribute to addressing the conflict dynamic and bring about peaceful change. There is still some way to go before conflict prevention has been effectively mainstreamed in particular into development cooperation and trade more widely. The development of effective **ESDP crisis responses** over the last few years has also made the need for actual mainstreaming tools even more evident. Concrete and implementable tools for mainstreaming conflict prevention and conflict sensitivity both in community programmes and in ESDP would aid in avoiding unintended side effects.

7. Additionally, there is a need to reflect on adapting the ways in which conflict prevention work is implemented taking into account the fact that the implementation of decisions and policies related to conflict prevention and crisis management may generate activities in different areas of competencies. Both the **European Security Strategy** and the **EU Consensus on Development** underline the clear link between security and development, stressing that security is a pre-condition for development but also that development has an important conflict prevention and peace building role. At the same time, the institutional structures of the three pillars make it necessary to ensure cross-pillar coordination and a comprehensive approach.

One way to address this would be to look at how greater transparency, coherence and cooperation could be achieved between all relevant actors within the internal decision-making process of the EU and how to **operationalise the early action strategies** and other conflict prevention plans and analyses in a coherent and comprehensive manner.

Early warning and action

Successful prevention must be based on accurate information and analysis as well as clear options for action for both long- and short-term prevention. It requires enhanced field co-operation. Coherence must be ensured in early warning, analysis, planning, decision-making, implementation and evaluation. (GP)

8. Building on the initiative under the Spanish Presidency in 2002 to map out ongoing/planned activities in the area of peace-building significant progress has been made during the last years on different levels, for example through the 6 monthly updated watch-list for early warning, the EC root-causes of conflicts check-list (against which delegations have been reporting for a few years), the Rapid Reaction Mechanism, situation rooms, civil-military cooperation to name but a few. This progress reflects a wider acknowledgement of the need for speedier reaction to emerging crises, as delays in crisis response, often lead to very costly crisis interventions. Furthermore, the cyclical nature of conflict makes a clear distinction between the different crisis phases difficult.
9. The **Watch List**, updated during each Presidency, has gradually become a tool of a coherent and comprehensive conflict analysis. There is a need for further action to ensure earlier detection of potential or emerging problems. As well as greater coordination and information sharing between Member States and EU institutions, this should also include establishing closer working relationships with key partners in this area. In 2005 the EU also addressed the need for ensuring that early warning leads to early action both within EU institutions and Member States and introduced a procedure for the follow up of early warning which resulted in elaboration of five early action strategies and further two are under preparation. These strategies need to ensure the possibility for actual operational follow-up, emphasise the operational dimension, be realistically focused according to EU staff and financial capacity, and be as comprehensive as possible.

Such strategies could include elements contributed both from Member States and the Commission according to needs and competencies. This approach could serve as an operational framework with set targets for all actors to cooperate and work together in the same direction regarding the identified country/area.

10. The annual surveys provide an additional window of opportunity to better link early warning to early action. Experience from the good practice of the annual surveys done on Africa since 2004, clearly points to also linking up the annual survey to the watch-list exercise in the future to define comprehensive preventive strategies.

Policy coherence

11. On the level of policy coherence, better inter-pillar coordination is still needed. There is definite willingness to overcome this obstacle and some major improvements have been made, for example ensuring in the course of the elaboration of early action strategies and in prioritising conflict prevention in ENP Action Plans that the relevant tools in the context of all three pillars have duly been taken into account. An **integrated and comprehensive approach** in the field of external relations bringing together all main conflict prevention instruments and actors at the EU's disposal - ESDP/CFSP, development, trade, economic, diplomatic, civilian and political-military should be further enhanced through continuing building up the necessary mechanisms for the cooperation. An important step would be to improve substantially the exchange of information on EU policies and activities through existing channels. In this context, the Concept for Comprehensive Planning, adopted by the Council on 21 November 2005 and the Framework paper of possible solutions for the management of EU Crisis Management Operations adopted on 15 May 2006, provides a practical framework, in accordance with existing Crisis Management procedures, for the planning, conduct and review of EU crisis management operations. This would need to be complemented by an active cross-pillar coordination of conflict prevention activities. Also, recent steps, such as the joint Fact-Finding Mission to Kosovo by the Presidency, the Commission and the Council General Secretariat should be assessed in view of reaching a greater coherence of EU instruments.

EU instruments for long- and short-term prevention

12. The EU has an extensive set of instruments for structural long-term and direct short-term preventive action. As indicated by the Göteborg Programme, the EU has supported **democracy programmes**, has stepped up **election monitoring** and election support, integrated conflict prevention to some extent in **human rights** programmes, engaged in efforts on rule of law, good governance, Security Sector Reform, de-mining, DDR, or the Kimberly process and FLEGT to name but a few.
13. The comprehensive approaches set out in the Cotonou agreement and in European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans, combining the political dialogue, with trade, development assistance and efforts in the area of democracy and human rights, has additionally provided the EU and partner countries with frameworks for comprehensive approaches to promote security and prevent conflict.
14. Particular achievements have also been made in the field of structures and **capabilities for civilian and military crisis management** developed in the framework of ESDP, in particular by increasing EU's capacity for rapid deployment (Civilian Response Teams, Integrated/Formed Police Units, EU Battlegroups), in the political dialogue, and Special Representatives. Further more ESDP framework documents have been produced to set much needed EU crisis response priorities in the coming years.
15. Yet, at its core Göteborg provides that the EU *must use these instruments 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* (GP).

16. The Göteborg programme emphasises the need to use crisis management tools for preventive purposes. This has been more and more the case, but crisis management operations are generally intended to remain short in time. The key challenge is to link them with longer-term peace-building community actions in development, reconstruction, or reintegration protecting the rights of the affected populations. Among the crucial elements necessary to achieve enhanced results in the future are more effective **mainstreaming of conflict prevention; systematic long-term analysis and assessment; and better integrating conflict prevention into political dialogue**. In the implementation of these, crisis management should be seen as a necessary short-term tool that complements a comprehensive long-term strategy in the context of which conflict prevention activities have been and will continue to be implemented and monitored before and after the crisis intervention.
17. **Political dialogue** will remain one of the most powerful conflict prevention instruments at the disposal of the EU.¹ Issues such as regional integration, the linkages between economic policies, such as trade liberalization and conflict, the impact of gender issues on security, AIDS, ratification and implementation of the ICC, environmental degradation and so on explicitly have an impact on peace and security. However, such issues could be more effectively integrated into all political dialogue processes, without duplicating activities of international organisations.
18. The Göteborg Programme underlines the European Union's "political commitment to pursue conflict prevention as one of the main objectives of the EU's external relations" and that Community development cooperation instruments can contribute to this goal. This commitment is reflected in the design of the new funding instruments for the 2007-13 Financial Perspective.

¹ HR Dialogues constitute an essential part of the European Union's overall strategy aimed at promoting sustainable development, peace and stability (EU guidelines on human rights dialogues, 14469/01, Council of the European Union, 3 December 2001). They are also meant to serve as an early warning system, to identify problems likely to lead to conflict in the future at an early stage.

The combination of traditional long-term cooperation instruments and the proposed Stability Instrument will enhance the ability of the Community to contribute, within its area of competence, to the development of a comprehensive prevention approach to state fragility, conflict, natural disasters and other types of crises in line with the European Consensus on Development adopted by the Council on 22 November 2005 and welcomed by the European Council on 15-16 December 2005.

Co-operation and partnerships

The EU must build and sustain mutually reinforcing and effective partnerships for prevention with the UN, the OSCE, and other international and regional organisations as well as with civil society. Increased cooperation is needed at all levels, from early warning and analysis to action and evaluation. Field co-ordination is of particular importance. EU action should be guided by principles of value added and comparative advantage. (GP)

19. As the successive conflict prevention reports show, the EU has placed considerable effort in relation building with the UN through the desk-to-desk dialogue on conflict prevention with the UN and now in the setting-up of the UNPBC. It cooperates with the OSCE (with an encouraging emphasis on learning from best practice in the field of recruitment, training, and procurement) and, notably through the Africa Peace Facility, with the African Union and sub-regional African organisations. Between 2004 and 2006 successive Presidencies have also stepped up relations with NGOs and the incoming Finnish Presidency has already started a significant joint project on the role of civil society. The EC has established funding under EIDHR for the conflict prevention network for a one year pilot project.
20. However, some decisive efforts remain to be undertaken. The elements of long term cooperation should be enhanced. To this end the channels of regular dialogue should be built up. A stronger **professionalisation of peace-building** at the level of the EU, including Commission delegations, is also a necessity in relation to assuring long-term expertise in human rights monitoring, dialogue and mediation, transitional justice, and conflict analysis. In the future the EU and its Member States will need to broaden and strengthen the existing network of actors working on crisis response by including more conflict prevention and peace-building experts from governmental and non-governmental levels.

21. The cooperation with the non-state actors has been increased considerably. A regular exchange of views and, where appropriate, consultations in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management with NGO-s at various levels have been started. The **role of non-state actors** (NSAs) in partner countries, mentioned in the Göteborg programme, however, deserves further attention from the EU. Methods for cooperation with the private sector as a stakeholder in preventing or fuelling violence also have to be developed further.
22. Recent support to the African Union and African sub-regional organisations is welcome, but Göteborg commitments to strengthen their preventive capacities are sometimes either not taken up as a priority in budget allocations or not seen as primary by beneficiaries themselves.

Implementation and lessons learned

23. Enhancing **EU's policy coherence and consistency** in the field of external action largely depends on the adoption and the implementation of conflict-sensitive approaches to crisis response¹, technical assistance and development co-operation. Conflict sensitivity should be applied more systematically by relevant actors in the EU and its Member States. Lessons identified from crisis management operations and peace-building efforts should be systematically captured, disseminated and reflected in subsequent activities. Furthermore mainstreaming of conflict prevention into relevant training activities would also contribute to awareness-raising both in Member States and the EU institutions.
24. The implementation of the Göteborg Programme is a **key commitment for the EU and its Member States**. Some Member States have developed national actions plans and strategic coordination to increase their capabilities for conflict prevention. More dialogue as well as exchange of views and best practices in relevant geographical and thematic Council working bodies. The PSC, assisted by CivCom, will play a crucial role in ensuring consistency between the different programmes at national and EU level and thus create the necessary synergy for the effective operations.

¹ Being conflict-sensitive means bearing in mind peace and conflict factors at every stage of the assistance (needs assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation) in conflict affected areas and being aware of how to maximise positive impact on peace-building and minimise harmful actions.

While crisis management has been supported through clearly implementable strategies and policies, conflict prevention has yet to be supported, inter alia, by a policy framework, specific budget lines, partnerships with expert non-governmental organisations and clear, tangible and measurable implementation.

II

Developments in the year 2005-2006

Introduction

1. This report sets out the conflict prevention activities of the European Union undertaken since the last report in June 2005.

Working with others

2. In the field of conflict prevention the Göteborg Programme and ESS underline the need for international cooperation and have identified effective multilateral engagement as a strategic objective for the EU. In this spirit the EU has engaged closely with a range of international, regional and local actors throughout the past 12 months.
3. Strengthening the **United Nations** is a key priority for the EU. In line with its longstanding commitment to promote UN reform, the EU continued its effort in the run-up to the UN World Summit in September 2005. The EU agrees with the underlying assumption of the reform process that security, development and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. In the follow-up to the UN Summit in September 2005, the decision to establish the Peace building Commission (PBC) on 20 December 2005 was the first concrete outcome of the UN reform process. It is expected soon to become operational and thus provide a forum for those assisting countries emerging from a conflict in their transition to recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and in laying the foundations for sustainable development. The EU, with its extensive experience in contributing to peace-building efforts around the world, has repeatedly reiterated its commitment actively to contribute to the work of the PBC. The EU has undertaken internal consultations with a view to establishing adequate mechanisms for its representation in the PBC so that it can speak with a coherent voice in this new body, to which it intends to make a substantial contribution.
4. **Working contacts with the UN** have also been intensified. EU-UN contacts are ongoing at senior official and desk levels. A Steering Committee is in place to coordinate joint work between the Secretariats in crisis management and European Commission services continue to hold “desk-to-desk” dialogues with integrated UN teams on conflict prevention.

The fourth round of this on-going dialogue took place on 30-31 March 2006 in New York, during which information exchange and enhanced cooperation was promoted on specific countries and regions. Regular contacts with the UN Framework Team in the area of prevention have also continued. The first technical team on the implementation of the strategic partnership between the European Commission and UNDP was held on 28 October 2005 after which an EC-UNDP “Joint Initiatives Document” was produced setting the basis for furthering cooperation in the area of conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction and governance. Moreover, the European Commission has, in 2005, contributed to UNICEF programmes on the impact of armed conflict on children, with special focus on Africa.

5. In line with its commitment to multilateralism, the EU took further steps to improve its co-operation with the **OSCE**. In particular, on 16 May 2006, the EU agreed on a draft 'Joint Declaration on Co-operation between the EU and the OSCE', which identifies precise ways and areas for enhanced co-operation. The OSCE is expected to present its comments in the following months.
6. In the **OECD/Development Assistance Committee (DAC)** the European Commission along with the EU Member States has participated actively in the DAC Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (CPDC) as well as in the DAC Fragile States Group. In the period 2005-6 the CPDC network is focusing on developing an Implementation Framework for Security Sector Reform and Governance, the environment and conflict and on tools for mainstreaming conflict prevention.
7. Setting the framework for the cooperation in the coming years, the **EU Strategy for Africa** was endorsed by the European Council in December 2005. In particular, this highlights the necessity to “work with the African Union (AU), sub-regional organisations and African countries to predict, prevent and mediate conflict, including by addressing its root causes, and to keep the peace in their own continent.”

8. Against this background, the cooperation with partners in **sub-Saharan Africa** gained additional momentum for which the cooperation with the AU in the field of Peace and Security has been instrumental. This has been reflected in particular by the further increases in technical assistance and financial support provided to the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS). Besides the crisis in Darfur, intensified consultations at political and at working level focused on the transition process in Democratic Republic of Congo; support for the AU mediation in Ivory Coast; and the peace process in Somalia.
9. On the basis of the Cotonou Agreement, the **European Development Fund (EDF)** has continued to finance and programme activities in capacity building, political mediation, early warning, policy planning and electoral observation, both at the continental level of the AU as well as at the level of sub-regional organisations such as ECOWAS, IGAD and ECCAS. The EU enhanced commitment to good governance is illustrated by the introduction of an incentive tranche in the 10th EDF, based on assessment of present level and future reform in the area of governance.
10. The pursuit of **political dialogue** under the Cotonou Agreement enables a focus on addressing the root causes of conflicts, particularly in the context of democratisation; internal political dialogue; the management of natural resources; impunity; respect for human rights; as well as regarding the fight against corruption and terrorism. In addition to the ongoing dialogue and support at regional level, important initiatives have been undertaken in a number of countries.
11. Contacts and cooperation with the AU in the area of peace and security are ongoing; in March 2006 **the Africa Peace Facility (APF)** was allocated €300 million for the period 2008-2010 in the framework of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF), thus increasing the support through this major instrument to the AU's capacity in the planning and management of Peace Support Operations. With its legal basis in the Cotonou Agreement¹ the APF builds on the three core principles of **African ownership, solidarity and partnership between Africa and Europe**. A new regional strategy for peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa was launched on 20 March 2006 once again indicating an action that is indicative of Europe's commitment to cooperating both at international and at regional level in pursuit of viable and lasting solution to conflict.

¹ Article 11 on "*Peace-building policies, conflict prevention and resolution*"

12. Building on the visit by US President Bush to the EU institutions in February 2005, **the EU and the US** are working together in the field of civilian and military crisis management, including conflict prevention. Increasingly, 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 messages. This close cooperation happened for instance regarding the recent elections in Belarus as well as in Lebanon. The EU and the US continue to cooperate closely in helping to stabilise the Balkans. Based on the 2005 Summit Declaration, the EU and the US have sought to develop further their cooperation in support of democracy, freedom, the rule of law and human rights. The EU and the US are working together to enhance conflict prevention capacity of the African Union. They are also working together to find a common approach to prevent the Iranian nuclear issue from escalating. The EU and the US 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.

13. The **EU and Canada** have intensified cooperation on crisis management and conflict prevention. Canada participates in a number of operations in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and in November 2005 the EU and Canada concluded a Framework Participation Agreement which will apply to future Canadian participation in ESDP operations. 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.

14. The **EU and Russia** have frequent meetings within their bilateral political dialogue where countries and regions facing the risk of conflict are being discussed systematically, notably within the framework of the Common Spaces. These four Spaces were agreed on in May 2005, and, *inter alia*, stipulate that further efforts should be focused on promoting conflict prevention through closer dialogue and result-oriented cooperation, including possible joint initiatives. The EU and Russia also participate in other fora where such matters are discussed, including the OSCE, the Quartet for the Middle East Peace Process and the Contact Group on the Western Balkans. The EU and Russia have stepped up their consultations on horizontal issues with relevance to conflict prevention, notably on non-proliferation and the fight against terrorism.

15. The EU's commitment to **regional crisis management and conflict prevention** in Asia was demonstrated by its support for the peace process in Aceh, Indonesia. As co-chair of the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka, the EU remains engaged in promoting sustainable peace in Sri Lanka. This practical engagement was underpinned by an extensive network of policy consultation and co-ordination on global and regional issues with the EU's three strategic partners in the region (China, India and Japan), as well as with others in Asia. Of particular importance was the beginning in 2005 of high level "strategic dialogue" on Asia issues with China, Japan and the United States of America. The EU also continues to value highly its close engagement with partners in the ASEAN Regional Forum, building confidence and understanding in the Asia-Pacific region.

16. Since 1999, regular **EU - Latin America-Caribbean** Summits have deepened mutual understanding and co-operation at political, economic, and socio-cultural level, both bilaterally with all the countries of the region and sub-regionally (Mercosur, the Andean Community, Central America, the Organisation of American States, the Rio Group and the Caribbean). At the Vienna Summit of 12 May 2006, the EU gave new impetus to its relations with Latin America. In the region the European Commission is currently engaged in and supportive to the ongoing fight against drugs (such as alternative development programmes in Bolivia), 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).

17. The EU has continued to develop its relationship with **NGOs and civil society** in the area of conflict prevention. On 9 March 2006, a workshop on "Conflict Prevention- Creating a Leading Role for the European Union" was organised in Brussels by the Madariaga European Foundation and the Folke Bernadotte Academy, with support from the Austrian Presidency. On 3 May, a conference entitled "What future for EU Conflict Prevention? Five years after Göteborg and how to move on" was jointly organised by the Presidency, the European Commission and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). The two events brought together practitioners and representatives of NGOs and civil society and think tanks and academia to share best practice and develop ideas for future EU capacity building in the field of conflict prevention.

18. The EU is also working closely with NGOs especially through the European Initiative on Democracy and Human Rights. In October 2005 a one-year pilot project under the **Conflict Prevention Network** was launched with a budget of € 1,125 million. Under the name of “Conflict Prevention Partnership” four NGOs - the International Crisis Group, International Alert, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office and the European Policy Centre - have come together to produce country- and region-specific reports and studies, including practical policy recommendations in the area of conflict prevention for the EU .

A more coherent actor

19. **Instruments** for conflict prevention at the disposal of the EU range from crisis management instruments through political, trade and development instruments. The ESS emphasises the need for better co-ordination between diplomatic efforts of the CFSP and EU development, trade, environment and justice and home affairs instruments.
20. The **European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)** is a good example of the EU’s effort to address the conflict dynamics in a more coherent fashion and throughout the different phases of the conflict cycle. Mainly through its Action Plans with the partner countries, the ENP contributes to addressing the root causes of conflict and facilitates mediation, mutual understanding and regional co-operation, including addressing the existing unresolved conflicts. The importance of the Action Plans is demonstrated by current on-going consultations to establish Action Plans with five more ENP countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt; Georgia and Lebanon), in addition to those already being implemented.
21. The need for a more coherent approach to **security and development** issues; the interdependence and linkage of security and development and the need to address the root causes of conflict is clear not only in the European Neighbourhood Policy but also the European Strategy for Africa and the European Consensus on Development, both adopted in December 2005. These documents also highlight the EU's recognition of the need for both Community and Member States’ combined efforts in comprehensively tackling conflict dynamics by productively utilising existing instruments.

22. Support through the European Development Fund (EDF) for the **Africa Peace Facility** continues to contribute to the development of a more coherent, structured and long-term instrument for African peacekeeping operations based on the principles of African ownership and solidarity. It has so far been used to fund the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and the efforts of the Force Multinationale en Centrafrique (FOMUC) of the Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale (CEMAC) in the Central African Republic as well as to provide capacity building support for the AU. AMIS received the bulk of Peace Facility funding (€ 162 million) in 2005 and a further € 50 million will be provided in 2006.
23. The **European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)** represents another instrument at the EU's disposal in approaching conflict prevention in a holistic manner. The EIDHR operates on the basis of the view that human rights' violations and a democratic deficit are often at the very root of conflicts. In 2005-2006 EIDHR is financing a variety of projects. These include the "Training for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management" project, which aims to train EU personnel before the deployment of conflict prevention and crisis management missions, as well as country specific projects addressing the issues of democracy and human rights, including for example the reintegration of child soldier and victims of torture in Sierra Leone, civil society's and media participation in and training on good governance in Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Colombia.
24. In its effort to address the structural causes of conflict, the EU is putting particular emphasis on natural resources management.
25. The **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)**, which was set up to address the problem of conflict diamonds, continues to develop innovative approaches to address concerns related to the trade in rough diamonds, and covers the near-totality of the global production of and trade in rough diamonds. The European Commission works closely with the authorities of Member States to ensure that conflict diamonds cannot enter the diamond trade in the EU.

The European Commission, as Chair of the Kimberly Process Working Group on Monitoring, has been instrumental in introducing a comprehensive 'peer review' monitoring system (with nearly 30 on-the-spot assessment missions carried out by mid 2006). The European Commission has moreover been elected to the 2007 Chairmanship of the Kimberly Process, and as Vice Chair in 2006, and in that capacity is actively supporting the current Chair (Botswana) in its tasks of overall coordination.

26. The **EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)**, which sets out a response to illegal logging and associated trade, often linked to violent conflict, saw progress on a number of fronts. The European Commission and EU Member States began to release development assistance in support of the Action Plan, including projects to the value of over € 20 million. In late 2005, the Council approved the FLEGT Regulation, allowing for the exclusion of illegally harvested timber entering the EU from FLEGT partner countries, as well as the negotiating mandate for the FLEGT Partnership Agreements. Informal consultations on FLEGT Partnership Agreements took place with a number of countries, including Ghana, Cameroon, Malaysia and Indonesia.
27. The different and growing demands for **water** at local regional, national and international levels can lead to drought and desertification and can develop into conflict. Internationally, the EU collectively provides around €1.4 billion annually to water and sanitation, which makes it the largest donor in the field. The European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) is designed to bring together the European Community and its Member States, civil society and financial institutions with the governments and stakeholders of partner countries to achieve the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals and to develop an integrated approach to river basin management. Within the context of the EUWI, the European Commission is financing and supporting several activities and projects setting out cooperative ventures between nations who share the waters of one specific river thus contributing to the achievement of water security and averting conflicts over water.
28. A good example of the synergies between **trade, regional development and stability** can be seen in the EU's policy towards the Western Balkans. The trade benefits offered autonomously to most of the countries of the region have helped to increase Bosnia and Herzegovina's export performance by 90%.

Together with the EU's other policies, including financial and technical assistance for development and transition in the political, economic and justice fields; political dialogue; ESDP missions; and a general focus on Human Rights issues through the EIDHR, this demonstrates how a coherent and comprehensive use of instruments at the EU's disposal can successfully address, mitigate and help to recover from conflict issues.

29. 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 Goteborg Programme for Conflict Prevention. The European Commission's 2005-2007 Multi-annual strategy for Mine Action calls for a "Zero Victim Target" in the fight against antipersonnel landmines worldwide, for which € 60 million was provided in 2005. This amounts to fully one third of the EU's overall assistance when taking Member States' contributions into account. The EU furthermore contributes with a variety of initiatives and projects to the implementation of the EU Strategy on SALW, adopted in December 2005. In 2005 the European Commission's contribution amounted to € 13,994 million. Internally, EU member States implement a policy on arms exports in conformity with the European Code of Conduct, adopted in 1998 and currently being revised.

More capable at prevention

30. The ESS emphasises the need for better coordination between diplomatic efforts of the CFSP and EU development, trade, environment and justice and home affairs instruments. The strong message of this interlinkage has been passed through political dialogue to several countries, which benefit from European assistance.
31. The EU is making progress in developing new and existing civilian and military crisis management capabilities which can respond quickly to nascent conflict. The Presidency ESDP Report to the June Council reports on progress in this field.

32. Enhanced co-ordination between civilian and military aspects of EU crisis management should be ensured through improved contingency planning under the responsibility of the **Civil-Military Cell**, which was created in 2005. The Cell can also co-ordinate integrated crisis response planning for possible future crisis management missions using civilian and military resources. In addition, the Cell may generate the capacity to plan and run an autonomous EU operation by setting up Operations Centre (OpsCentre) facilities, which will reach their full operational capability in early 2007. The Ops Centre can be activated as an Operational Headquarter (OHQ) for a military operation, in particular where a joint civil/military response is required. Last, but not least, the Cell can reinforce national OHQs and assists in the planning, the support and the conduct of civilian operations.
33. The **Civilian Headline Goal (CHG) 2008**, has established itself as the EU's main tool for planning the development of civilian crisis management capabilities for preventive action in ESDP, with the objective of ensuring overall coherency in the development of Civilian Crisis Management capabilities. This strategic and comprehensive planning process is closely coordinated with the military Headline Goal 2010.
34. Following the establishment in 2005 of a Civilian Capabilities Requirements List, based on the six priority areas for civilian crisis management under ESDP, work has continued on assessing national contributions and on a detailed evaluation of civilian capability shortfalls. On 21 November 2005, a Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference (CCIC) reviewed progress and provided direction for the way ahead, notably in the form of elements of a Civilian Capability Improvement Plan, which was subsequently adopted by the Council on 12 December 2005. The development of rapidly deployable Civilian Response Teams (CRTs) has also been taken forward. By the end of 2006, an initial capacity of up to 100 experts should be in place.

35. On **military capabilities**, work has continued within the framework of the Headline Goal 2010. The objective is 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 covered by the Treaty on the European Union. This includes, where appropriate, humanitarian and rescue tasks, peace-keeping tasks and tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking. It might also include joint disarmament operations, support for third countries in combating terrorism and security sector reform. As an important step in this process, a new Requirements Catalogue, the RC 05, was agreed in November 2005.
36. In the field of **Rapid Response**, work has continued in order to implement the key elements of the military Headline Goal 2010 document. Initial Operational Capability (IOC) for battlegroups, which enables the EU to undertake at least one battlegroup -sized rapid response operation, has been reached as of January 2005. At the same time, an EUMS study on the maritime dimension in ESDP is being conducted to produced a better understanding of present and future EU maritime missions, requirements and capabilities (including maritime rapid response). Work is also ongoing on the **Rapid Response Air Initiative**, which aims at enhancing the generation of Air Rapid Response elements and proposes a draft concept for a European Deployable Air Station.
37. The EU continues to make progress in developing its diplomatic and early warning capabilities. On **diplomatic capabilities**, the EU now has nine EU Special Representatives (EUSRs), including two new appointments (July 2005) dealing with Sudan and Central Asia.
38. Efforts have continued to refine the EU's **early warning** methodology and draw on a broader range of resources from member states as well as further improve the link between early warning and early action. The implementation of the early action strategies has been started and its assessment will take place by the end of the Austrian Presidency.

39. The **Rapid Reaction Mechanism (RRM)** has increasingly been used as a comprehensive component of broader EU crisis response programmes, in co-ordination with other instruments, but also with ESDP/CFSP actions. During the last year, the RRM has offered support to peace talks and mediation (Sudan, Darfur, Indonesia-Aceh and Gaza) and advice on political and structural peace building issues (Kyrgystan, Bolivia and Nepal). RRM programmes also aimed at highlighting the role of media and civil society in conflict prevention and resolution (Liberia), as well as underlying security related issues in a conflict or post-conflict environment (Indonesia-Aceh, Ukraine-Moldova and Democratic Republic of Congo).

A more active European Union

40. The ESS requires us to be more active in applying the full spectrum of instruments for crisis management and conflict prevention, including political, diplomatic, civilian and military, trade and development activities.

41. In Africa, the EU is engaged through its **ESDP Action Plan for support to Peace and Security in Africa and through Community instruments** aiming at enhancing Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) and Security Sector Reform (SSR) processes, supported by the activities of the EUSR for the Great Lakes region. As DDR/SSR calls for a comprehensive approach, bringing together the military and civilian instruments which the EU has at its disposal, there is clear added value in the EU developing its activities in this field.

42. In projecting an integrated approach to securing the peace and in projecting stability the EU and Member States undertake both long and short term conflict prevention measures in **Democratic Republic of Congo**. In this context, the first SSR mission, **EUSEC DRC** was launched on 8 June 2005 with the task of helping the government with the reform and integration of the Congolese Army. In December 2005, the Council decided to set up a technical assistance project under the auspices of this mission, aiming at securing the proper functioning of the chain of payment in the Congolese army. The mandate of EUSEC DRC has been extended until July 2007.

In Spring 2006 the European Commission responded positively to a request by EUSEC to provide IT equipment and flanking support amounting to € 2 million for families of soldiers experiencing humanitarian distress in the newly formed integrated military brigades in the East of DRC. Moreover, the European Commission has provided €1.5 million for military reform through two centres of army reintegration.

43. By the end of February 2006 in the DDR sector, the European Commission's support (€ 20 million) for the Multi-Country Demobilisation and Reintegration Process (MDRP) had helped to secure the demobilization of 55,737 combatants and the signing of contracts with civil society organisations so as to ensure reintegration of 22,191 demobilised into civil society (the majority of the remainder chose integration into the army).
44. The EU has, in coordination with the UN, continued to support the transition process in DRC. Following a UN request, the EU has decided to conduct a military operation, **EUFOR RD Congo**, in support of MONUC during the election process in DRC. The military operation is based on a Chapter VII mandate from the United Nations Security Council and will carry out the tasks set out in that mandate.
45. The EU's police mission in DRC, **EUPOL KINSHASA**, continues to monitor, mentor and advise the Integrated Police Unit (IPU) in Kinshasa in the execution of its functions. In the context of the EU's support to the 2006 elections in the DRC, EUPOL KINSHASA will be temporarily reinforced with a view to support the coordination of Congolese crowd control units in Kinshasa during the election period. The European Commission has financially and technically supported the preparation for the DRC's first democratic elections since independence set to take place in the summer of 2006. More particularly € 149 million - the largest EU funding ever – was given to the election process. A substantial part of this funding – € 24 million - is specially set-aside for securing the election process.

46. In addition, the European Commission has a multi-theme focus that embraces all aspects of human security, which includes everything from a linking relief and development project in the East of the DRC due to start later in 2006, to support longer term police reform through the Cellule de Reflexion. Furthermore, in the field of judicial system reform the European Commission currently supports and participates in the Comité Mixte de Réforme de la Justice in the East of DRC to the amount of € 7.9 million.
47. The EU is also directly and indirectly fostering conflict resolution in **Burundi**. Through its € 20 million contribution to the multilateral MDRP (Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Programme) Trust Fund managed by the World Bank, the European Commission is one of the main donors for this vital effort in Burundi and six others central African countries. From December 2004 to April 2006, MDRP has demobilised 19,739 ex-rebel-fighters and army soldiers in the country.
48. Furthermore, many countries in the West Africa region have benefited from Community funding, particular emphasis being put on DDR programmes. Such programmes include a € 25 million DDRR (Demobilisation, Disarmament, Reintegration and Rehabilitation) programme in **Liberia** as well as a € 1.6 million army demobilisation project. In addition, during 2006 the European Commission plans to fund a € 4 million programme on the vocational training and reintegration of ex-combatants in **Ivory Coast** and remains actively engaged **Guinea Bissau**'s SSR (army and police reform), allocating € 5.7 million for 2006.
49. The EU has supported the AU and the negotiations in Chad in bringing the parties involved in the **Darfur** crisis together and in reaching an agreement on the conditions for establishing a Ceasefire Commission (CFC) and deploying monitors. In July 2005 the Council decided to support the reinforcement of the African Union Mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS) by providing police officers and military officers to assist the African Union. This supporting action, originally foreseen for an initial period of 6 months has been extended twice, most recently until 30 September 2006.

50. In **Somalia**, the EU has been a key supporter of the peace process and the European Commission facilitated the first ever Parliamentary session on Somali soil on 26 February 2006. It is supporting the security arrangements for the Transitional Federal Parliament including the deployment of 400 Somali police in the interim capital of Baidoa. The European Commission has provided more than € 5 million to the Rule of Law and Security Programme for the establishment of a Somali police force. These efforts are part of a comprehensive EU political strategy agreed by the Council on 20 March 2006.
51. At the Tokyo conference in January 2002, the European Commission pledged a total of € 1 billion for the reconstruction and development of **Afghanistan** over five-year period 2002-2006. Under this framework, a total of € 200.5 million was committed in 2005. This comprised a number of actions addressing the root causes of violent conflict. With a view to putting in place representative and reliable governance institutions, a total of € 17.5 was provided towards the holding of the successful parliamentary and provincial elections which took place in September 2005. An EU Election Observation Mission was also deployed. Additionally € 3 million were provided to help build the institutional capacity of the new National Assembly. Moreover € 10 million was channelled into the National Solidarity Programme which helps to build up governance institutions and to promote rural development at village level. In the security sector, € 30 million was provided for the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) whose role is to cover salaries and training costs for the new Afghan National Police. Given the importance of the opium economy as a driver of conflict, a total of € 26.75 million was also channeled in support of the Counter-Narcotics Strategy of Afghanistan. Finally, given the legacy of mass population displacement and its inherent risks of fuelling future conflict, a package of support worth a total of € 17.15 million was provided to remove obstacles to the return of refugees, particularly from Pakistan and Iran, and to address challenging regional migration issues.
52. In the **Western Balkans**, the EU remains heavily engaged in conflict prevention, within the framework of its overall Stabilisation and Association process. Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have been accepted as candidates for EU accession and the remaining countries, as potential candidates, are at various stages of the process towards accession.

The EU's comprehensive approach towards the region enables the Union to address tension and contribute to peace building through a number of instruments including an institutional framework, political engagement, security presence and various forms of assistance. Regional cooperation, good neighbourly relations, good governance and measures for reconciliation are key elements of the Stabilisation and Association Process. Regarding regional cooperation, the Stability Pact is making a key contribution complementary to the Stabilisation and Association Process. The EU has a leading role in the Stability Pact and the Commission is directly engaged in its activities. The EU appoints the Special coordinator of the Stability Pact and provides financial support to its budget.

53. Within this same process, the EU is also continuing to support the political process to determine Kosovo's future status, including through its support for and contribution to UNMIK. The EU decided in April 2006 to establish a Planning Team for Kosovo (**EUPT Kosovo**) regarding a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and possible other areas in Kosovo. In close coordination with all UNMIK structures, EUPT Kosovo will initiate planning to ensure a smooth transition between selected tasks of UNMIK and a possible EU mission and will provide technical advice to enable the EU to contribute to support and maintain the dialogue with UNMIK. The EU remains closely involved, together with international partners, in the ongoing status negotiations.
54. The European Commission, in line with the EU's political commitment in the Balkans, funded in 2006 an RRM project in Serbia-Montenegro for the "Support to the referendum process in Montenegro"; the € 100,000 project enabled the Chairperson of the Referendum Commission and its two experts to provide high level political and technical advice for the referendum process.
55. The EU currently has two EUSRs in the region; in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). In the latter case, the EUSR is the same person as the Head of the European Commission Delegation in FYROM.
56. In the security field, the EU continues to have a significant presence on the ground. Through the EU-led military mission, **Operation Althea** in BiH, the EU helps to contribute to a safe and secure environment, allowing further progress towards integration with the EU.

57. The European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, **EUPM**, was relaunched in January 2006 with a refocused mandate and continues to assist the local police forces to progress towards best European practice through mentoring, monitoring and inspecting at the senior and middle-level management posts. The new mandate focuses more specifically on supporting the police reform process and continuing to develop and consolidate local capacity and regional cooperation in the fight against major and organised crime.
58. In November 2005, the EU amended the mandate of the **EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM)** to monitor political and security developments in the area of its responsibility, with a particular focus on Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro, and neighbouring regions that might be affected by any adverse developments in Kosovo or Serbia and Montenegro. The mandate of EUMM was also extended until the end of 2006.
59. The EU Police Mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, **EUPOL PROXIMA**, continued to provide support to the development of an efficient and professional police service until its conclusion in December 2005. The EU has established a European Union Police Advisory Team (EUPAT) under the guidance of the EUSR, to ensure a seamless continuation of EU assistance activities in the crucial area of police reform with a view to helping the host country move closer to the EU.
60. In the Southern Caucasus, following the conclusion in July 2005 of the EU's first ESDP Rule of Law Mission, **EUJUST THEMIS** in Georgia, the EU has continued its efforts to contribute to the stability and security of Georgia. Under the responsibility of the EUSR, the EU has established a team in Tbilisi comprising a Rule of Law follow-up to EUJUST THEMIS and a **Border Support Team (BST)**. The BST provides the EU with reporting and continued assessment of the border situation and facilitates confidence-building between Georgia and the Russian Federation, thereby ensuring efficient cooperation with all relevant actors. The team also supports the Georgian Border Guard and other relevant government institutions in Tbilisi in preparing a comprehensive reform strategy.

61. In the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy, consultations on ENP Action Plans began with all three South Caucasus countries during the last weeks of 2005. Together with the UN and the OSCE, the EU, as the largest donor in the region, continues to support the peaceful resolution of the internal conflicts on the basis of meaningful negotiations and a continuing search for a political settlement. Existing projects aim at improving the living conditions of the population and creating the conditions for the return of internally displaced person, as well as facilitating progress in a constructive dialogue between opposing social groups. In **Abkhazia** the European Commission allocated € 14.5 million for on-going projects (which vary from economic rehabilitation to humanitarian assistance) while in **South Ossetia** € 8 million have been assigned to five different projects.
62. The EU has continued to develop its engagement with **Moldova**. The EU and Moldova have jointly developed and agreed an ENP Action Plan covering a broad range of issues. The EU has systematically stepped up its involvement in supporting a settlement to the so-called "frozen conflict" in Transnistria and has worked in close cooperation with mediators and partners, including the OSCE and the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.
63. On the basis of an invitation from the Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities, the **EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine** (EUBAM) was inaugurated on 30 November 2005. The objective of EUBAM is to help enhance the capacities of Moldovan and Ukrainian services for border and customs controls and border surveillance along their common border, including on the Transnistrian section. This objective is pursued through a combination of central-level advice and recommendations (including on risk analysis, bilateral co-operation and an increasingly integrated approach to border management) and practical on-the-job training of counterpart services. Unannounced monitoring visits to the border constitute an essential part of the Mission's activities. 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 Mission is also expected to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the Transnistrian conflict. The first six months of EUBAM's activities were funded under the RRM, the following 18 months under TACIS, while EU Member States have contributed significantly through the secondment of personnel to the mission.

64. The EU has been actively engaged in the **Middle East Peace Process**. Through several ongoing EU-funded projects on institution building, rule of law and support to Palestinian refugees, the EU substantively tries to address the root causes of the conflict. Throughout 2005-2006 the EU, as a member of the Quartet, remained committed to the MEPP, providing political, financial and human resources support to the Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement. Based on the "Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing" and the "Agreement on Movement and Access" reached between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) on 15 November 2005, the EU's **EUBAM Rafah** mission provides a third party presence at the Rafah Crossing Point between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. This mission, conducted within the framework of ESDP, is intended to contribute to the functioning of the Rafah Crossing Point and to build confidence between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The EU is keeping ESDP activities in the Occupied Territories under review to ensure consistency with Quartet policy on assistance to the new Palestinian Authority.
65. In January 2006, the EU launched a new ESDP police mission in the Palestinian Territories, **EUPOL COPPS**. This mission builds on work already begun by the EU Coordination Office for Palestinian Police Support (COPPS), which functioned under the authority the EUSR. EUPOL COPPS provides support to the building of capacities within the Palestinian Civil Police and to the implementation of the Palestinian Civil Police Development Plan. This mission has a long term reform focus and should aim at establishing sustainable and effective policing arrangements.
66. Regarding **Iraq**, the EU's Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq, **EUJUST LEX**, was launched on 1 July 2005, with the objective of addressing the urgent needs in the Iraqi criminal justice system through providing training for senior officials in management and criminal investigation. To date, more than 600 senior officials from the police, the judiciary and the penitentiary have been trained in an integrated fashion in EU Member States. The EU has agreed to extend the mission for a further period of 18 months, as well as to enable internships and specialised courses for Iraqi senior officials. Iraqi involvement at every stage is a key principle for the Mission. The Iraqi Chief Justice is chairing a Rule of Law Sector Working Group for donor co-ordination with the active participation of EUJUST LEX.

While engaged in an ongoing political dialogue with Iraqi authorities, EU instruments have been mobilised to support the stabilisation of the country. From 2003 to date, € 720 million has been allocated in Community Assistance. The 2006 Assistance Programme outlined a number of areas in which the EU could further support the Iraqi Rule of Law sector, through capacity- and institution-building.

67. In Indonesia, the EU has played a role in contributing to the establishment of a sustainable peace in Aceh. Together with five contributing countries from ASEAN and Norway and Switzerland, the EU launched a civilian monitoring mission on 15 September 2005, the **Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM)**. This mission is monitoring the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Government of Indonesia (GoI) and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) on 15 August 2005. After having completed the monitoring tasks related to the decommissioning of GAM and the relocation of GoI military forces, AMM monitors the reintegration of active GAM members, the human rights situation, the process of legislation change, rules on disputed amnesty cases and deals with complaints and alleged violations of the MoU. The EU has decided to extend the mandate of AMM until 15 September 2006.

68. Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding, the RRM is funding actions to provide immediate reintegration assistance (medical assistance, support to return to home village, reintegration packages including clothing and cash support) at the point of release for approximately 2000 detainees as well as communication and information tools on the MoU and the peace process. The programme also included the provision of similar support for 3000 ex-GAM combatants. The EU's involvement in the Aceh peace process is a good example of how the EU's different instruments can be deployed in a coordinated manner to provide a real contribution to consolidating a peace process and the sustainability of the political settlement

69. In **Colombia**, activities continued to focus on addressing the root causes of conflict (alternative development, justice sector reform), preventing the expansion of violence (Peace Laboratories, de-mining and fight against land mines proliferation, promotion and protection of Human rights) and assisting victims (humanitarian aid, assistance to uprooted people). Responding to the sharp rise in conflict levels in **Bolivia**, in May 2005 the Council adopted an Action Plan for Bolivia, providing a framework for coherent and structured actions by the EU to help to achieve a new degree of national stability based on a deepened and more genuine democracy. In 2005, the RRM funded activities aimed at the promotion of political dialogue and consensus-building as well as at supporting conflict prevention in the run-up to the general and parliamentary elections and the national referendum on regional autonomy.
70. In 2005 the EU sent out an Election Observation Mission to **Venezuela**. In **Central America**, the EU has made a significant contribution to post-conflict situations and to preventing the resumption of civil or regional conflicts, in particular in Nicaragua and Guatemala. In this context, the European Commission continued to fund activities under the ‘Multiannual Programme for Democracy and Human Rights in Central America’, which aims at the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, in particular through the promotion of confidence building measures and consultation mechanisms.
71. Work is continuing on addressing the issue of **children in armed conflict** in follow up to the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict. The EU acknowledges that effectively addressing the situation of children affected by armed conflict is crucial for the prevention of conflict. A review of progress made towards the implementation of the guidelines was carried out in December 2005 and a number of recommendations were made on further steps to be taken. Subsequently, an implementation strategy was developed in 2006 which includes a check list for the integration of the protection of children affected by armed conflict into ESDP missions. In the process of implementing the guidelines and in follow up to the UNSC resolutions 1539 and 1612, the EU is seeking close co-operation with the relevant international actors, in particular with the UN (UNICEF, UNSG/SR on Children and Armed Conflict, Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), UN country teams) and with NGOs.

72. In December 2005 the Council welcomed the contribution made by the appointment of the Personal Representative of the Secretary General/High Representative for Human Rights to promoting the further **mainstreaming of human rights** in the Common Foreign and Security policy, and to raising awareness of the EU's human rights guidelines.
73. Work has been taken forward on the implementation of **UN Security Council Resolution concerning women, peace and security (UNSCR 1325)** in the context of ESDP. This resolution calls for the increased involvement of women at all decision making levels in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as in areas such as DDR and promotes women as advocates for peace. It further acknowledges the need to take special measures in terms of protecting women and girls and to respect the different needs of men and women. A document noted by the Council in November 2005 proposed a number of concrete implementing measures. Member States, the EU institutions and all other relevant EU bodies were invited to implement the proposed measures.
74. The promotion of gender equality in crisis management and conflict resolution is an integral part of the training for Member States experts supported through the EIDHR. The European Commission is also promoting women's participation in peace processes and long-term peace building processes in countries such as Georgia and Colombia. In Sri Lanka, support to the National Peace Council (NPC) of Sri Lanka aims at increasing and promoting the constructive participation of women and local peace committees and the overall peace process. This includes the establishment of a nationwide network of Women Activists; linking organisations and the NPC networks; forming a network of district peace committees and building their capacity for planning and lobbying as well as providing creative forms of public expression for the messages put out by the networks – particularly through media campaigns.

75. The threat posed by **terrorism** is far from over and the global fight against terrorism, in full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, must therefore be given the highest attention. Prevention is one of the key areas of the Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by the European Council in December 2005. In this context, the EU recognises the importance of the fight against the factors underlying radicalisation and recruitment with a view to reaching an enduring solution to the problem of terrorism. Furthermore, the EU will continue to make use of all appropriate instruments in its internal and external activities to address conditions in societies that create an environment in which people may become more easily radicalised. Cooperation with third countries, both through political dialogue and the provision of technical assistance in some specific counter terrorism related areas, has been enhanced with a view to contribute to strengthen their capacities to fight terrorism. The EU also contributed to capacity building at regional level.
76. **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. Internally, within the EU, reinforcing the efficiency of export controls in an enlarged Europe has been a priority. The objective of prevention and effective multilateralism has led to the further implementation of a number of EU Joint Actions in support of multilateral bodies such as the IAEA (nuclear) and OPCW (chemical), as well as to the adoption of a new EU Joint Action in support of the BTWC (biological). Under these Joint Actions, the EU supports activities which promote the universalisation of international treaties and conventions; the assistance to third countries for setting up the 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. Work has been taken forward to include a non-proliferation clause as an essential element in agreements with third countries. The ENP Action Plans, for countries covered by the Neighbourhood Policy, now also include provisions on non-proliferation.

77. Strengthening the **rule of law** is an important precondition for supporting the development of a rules-based international order as a key instrument for conflict prevention. In this spirit the EU continued its efforts to provide universal support to the effective functioning of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**. The preparations launched by the EU in May 2004 for an Agreement on Cooperation and Assistance between the EU and the ICC have been completed and the Agreement entered into force on 1 May 2006.
