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NOTE

From : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Delegations

Subject : Draft PMG recommendations and CivCom advice on the "Working paper on EU activities in the area of mediation and dialogue"

Delegations will find attached the draft PMG recommendations and CivCom advice on the "Working paper on EU activities in the area of mediation and dialogue" (doc. 11680/09).

Draft PMG recommendations and CivCom advice on the "Working paper on EU activities in the area of mediation and dialogue" (doc. 11680/09)

I. Introduction

1. Following the tasking by the Political and Security Committee (PSC) in its meeting of 29 May 2009, the Secretariat, in association with the Commission, have elaborated a "Working paper on EU activities in the area of mediation and dialogue". The PSC in its meeting of 7 July 2009 tasked PMG and CivCom to prepare recommendations and advice on the way forward. The PSC will revert to the issue on the basis of these recommendations and advice.
2. PMG and CivCom discussed and agreed on 23 July the following recommendations and advice.

II. Considerations

3. The working paper was considered a good basis for future work on strengthening EU mediation and dialogue capacities in agreement with the SG/HR's Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy.
4. There was agreement with the analysis contained in the working paper and it was particularly stressed that:
 - mediation and dialogue are important components of the EU's conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-building tool box;
 - the EU is well placed to play an increasingly active international role in this area through its political weight, strong field presence, comprehensive approach and wide range of instruments;
 - mediation and dialogue can play an important part in the EU's interaction with different actors on the ground, including during crisis management missions and operations;
 - the EU should draw on existing capacities and strive for close co-operation and co-ordination with other actors in the field of mediation and dialogue in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

5. It was recognized that a number of EU actors (including the SG/HR, Presidency, Commissioners, EUSRs, HoMs of ESDP missions and EC Heads of Delegation) and instruments (including CFSP, ESDP and Community instruments) play important roles in the EU's mediation and dialogue efforts, ranging from governmental to grassroots levels.
6. It was agreed that the EU should play an active role in different aspects of mediation and dialogue, including by:
 - providing diplomatic leverage and follow-up support through the full range of crisis management, trade, development and humanitarian efforts;
 - supporting mediation and dialogue processes through capacity building, training, logistical support and expertise;
 - funding mediation and dialogue processes at different levels;
 - carrying out mediation and dialogue tasks through being involved in designing and conducting such processes.
7. It was at the same time recognized that, while the EU today is engaged in a large number of mediation and dialogue activities, it currently lacks a systematic approach in this area in terms of policy guidelines, gathering of best practice and lessons learned, logistical and expert support, training opportunities and networking with other international actors. Efforts should therefore be made to strengthen the EU policy framework and capacity in this area by optimising existing tools and instruments, ensuring value added and developing additional capacities, including a focal point for mediation and dialogue.

III. Recommendations and advice

8. The PSC is invited to task the Secretariat, in association with the Commission, to draft a concept paper which should take into account previous and ongoing work on strengthening EU capacity in mediation and dialogue including the results of the EUSR meeting on mediation of 28 July. The concept paper should provide a policy basis for the EU's future activities in the area of mediation and dialogue and define further how the EU capacity and support in this area could be strengthened.