



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 17 June 2008**

**10601/08**

**PESC 775  
COPS 181  
CIVCOM 309  
COSDP 523  
RELEX 440  
JAI 323  
PROCIV 90  
DEVGEN 107**

**COVER NOTE**

---

From : General Affairs and External Relations Council

To : European Council

---

No. Prev. doc.: 10294/08 PESC 712, COPS 170, CIVCOM 289, COSDP 484, RELEX 405,  
JAI 298, PROCIV 82, DEVGEN 104 + COR 1

---

Subject : Annual Report on EU activities in the framework of conflict prevention, including  
implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts

---

Delegations will find attached the Annual Report on EU activities in the framework of conflict prevention, including implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts, as adopted by the Council (GAERC) on 16 June 2008, to be forwarded to the European Council in view of its meeting on 19-20 June 2008.

**Annual Report on EU activities in the framework of conflict prevention,  
including implementation of the EU Programme  
for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts**

## **Introduction**

(1) This report sets out the conflict prevention activities of the European Union since July 2007 in follow-up to the EU Programme on the Prevention of Violent Conflict, adopted by the European Council in Göteborg in June 2001. It also takes account of the European Security Strategy, adopted in December 2003, the Progress Report of the UN Secretary General on Prevention of Armed Conflicts published in August 2006 and the Recommendations of the EU Annual Report on conflict prevention adopted by the European Council last June.

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

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

(3) Throughout the reporting period, conflict prevention continued to be a key EU objective. Efforts were pursued to improve the culture of conflict prevention, further strengthen conflict sensitivity and the conflict prevention approach, develop the necessary capabilities and capacities and enhance coherence between the EU's various external policy instruments as well as cooperation between the EU institutions and the Member States.

(4) The establishment of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability and the implementation of the report on the EU Military Staff's ability to conduct planning, the reinforcement of the crisis response activities of EC Delegations, and the new country and regional strategy papers for the

period of 2007-2013 served as new tools and constituted substantial steps forward to improve the links of **early warning to early action**. The assessment of current practices within the framework of follow up to the Council Conclusion on fragile **situations and nexus development and security** in November 2007 will also serve as important facilitators of this progress.

(5) Member States successfully continued their efforts to **build up capabilities and capacities in conflict prevention**. The measures planned in the follow-up to a survey on the national capabilities and activities in that context will further facilitate the activities undertaken in this domain in recent years. The various training initiatives arranged in the framework of CFSP/ESDP, including the ongoing activities of the EC Project on Civilian Crisis Management under the Instrument for Stability and internal Commission training have helped to enhance EU capacities in the period.

(6) The European Union remained a leading contributor to peace and stability across the globe. Its wide array of instruments allowed it to effectively map the risks, the rising tensions and fragile situations, and apply adequate tools to respond to them. The first year of implementation of the Instrument for Stability, the Exercise Programme (including a use of the EU Operations Centre), and the progress in the Civilian Headline Goals 2008 and 2010 and military Headline Goal 2010 processes allowed for improvements in both the EU activities and capabilities in terms of **short-term prevention**.

(7) The Council Conclusions of November 2007 on fragile situations and nexus development and security, the EC communication on fragile situations and the joint Council Secretariat and Commission paper on security and development highlighted progress in this area and provided concrete proposals for how to better draw on the EU's capacity and different instrument in the nexus between security and development. Specific thematic issues such as Security Sector Reform, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, gender, democratisation and human rights, including children's rights have also been more systematically addressed. This on the whole further enhanced EU activities in terms of **structural prevention**.

(8) In the field of **systemic prevention** the European Union has continued its active role by addressing risks in the area of natural resources, terrorism, organised crime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and small arms and light weapons. Particular attention was paid to the security dimensions of climate change, including the launch of a dialogue process with the key international players.

(9) **Cooperation with the international community** was further strengthened. Desk-to-desk meetings with the United Nations, staff-to-staff consultations with the major partners, and cooperation in the field with regional organizations were features of EU activities during the reporting period. Particularly significant progress was achieved in developing partnerships and cooperation with the African regional organizations.

(10) Likewise, further efforts to enhance dialogue and to share information and **cooperation with non-state actors** have been undertaken through the establishment of the Peace-building Partnership under the Stability Instrument in 2007 and in renewed support under the Conflict Prevention Network financed under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

(11) In light of the review set out below and with a view to achieving further progress in this field, it is **recommended** that the European Union:

- Continue to promote and mainstream a genuine culture of prevention and conflict sensitivity in terms of operational, structural and systemic prevention;
- Further develop capacities in the nexus between security and development, through improved whole-of-EU approaches and better coordination, joint strategic planning and implementation procedures;
- Devote particular attention to new challenges, including resource scarcity, climate change and fragility;
- Start preparations for launching an exchange of best practices with a view to assisting Member States in building up national capacities, capabilities and skills in the field of conflict prevention.
- Make steps to strengthen mechanisms of translating early warning into early action.
- Promote the implementation of normative global principles for prevention, including the responsibility to protect, and prevent genocide and mass atrocities **as well as the protection of human rights**;
- Continue to enhance dialogue and cooperation within the international community and with the key international actors and partners on the prevention of both old and new security risks;
- Pay specific attention to the implementation of the joint EU-Africa Joint Strategy;

- Contribute to strengthening the capacities of regional and sub-regional organisations, especially in Africa to prevent violent conflicts;
- Improve cooperation with non-state actors including NGOs/CSOs by enhancing dialogue and improving information-sharing and cooperation in the field.

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

### a) Early Warning and Planning Level

(12) Early warning and subsequent early action have remained key fields of activity for the European Union. The **Watchlist**, the fundamental early warning document of the European Union, has been updated twice during the reporting period and provided substantial guidance on current security threats and risks for policy-makers. Cooperation and coordination between the Council, Commission and Member States has been enhanced during the preparation of analysis. Efforts have continued to further refine the early warning methodology with a view to better support the political decision making process. In preparing the risk assessments, open source intelligence has been applied to a growing extent.

(13) The EU Joint Situation Centre and various other structures **within** the Council Secretariat, including the DG External Relations and the Early Warning and Policy Planning Unit as well as **the** DG External Relations in the Commission submitted plentiful **reports and assessments** to Council bodies and Member States on major issues in the field of CFSP and ESDP.

(14) In the framework of **reinforcing the EC Delegations' crisis response capacities**, a stronger role and concrete instructions have been given to them so that they can monitor deteriorating situations and alert the Commission at headquarters level. At the same time an alert/information transmission scheme has been set up in the Commission, in order to ensure that all relevant interlocutors are alerted as early as possible at the outbreak of a crisis and are provided with all available and relevant information. This includes a crisis correspondents network, training and dissemination of information regarding the Commission's Crisis Room and other early warning and

analysis tools at the disposal of the Commission. Regional Crisis response planners will be deployed to seven EC Delegations as a pilot approach. They will monitor the situation in the surrounding countries and assist in the identification and implementation of actions that may be financed under the Instrument for Stability.

(15) The Commission, with contributions from the Council Secretariat and Member States developed **new country and regional strategy papers** for the period 2007-2013. Conflict prevention and peace-building have been given high priority in many strategies.

(16) In September 2007, the **Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC)** was established in the framework of the Council Secretariat. It supports the Civilian Operations Commander in his role of planning and conducting ESDP civilian missions. Together with DGE9, which is responsible for strategic level planning in the field of civilian ESDP, they contribute to improving the effectiveness and impact of civilian ESDP missions on EU efforts to prevent violent conflicts.

(17) Work is ongoing on the implementation of the report on the **EU Military Staff's ability to conduct planning at strategic level** for EU-led military operations, which was welcomed by Council in November 2007. This will make it possible to address gaps identified concerning the ability to conduct early planning in sufficient detail, inter alia, to allow Member states to assess their potential force contributions and to provide appropriate expertise throughout the decision-making process.

(18) Despite the above-mentioned developments there is still scope for enhancing the institutional mechanism to transform **early warning into early action**.

b) Operational level

(19) 2007 was the first year of implementation for the **Instrument for Stability (IfS)** which strengthened the EU capacities for crisis response and conflict prevention. The largest share of IfS funds has been allocated for measures in Africa (39%), followed by the Middle East (20%), the Balkans (10%), Latin America and the Caribbean (9%) and Asia-Pacific (7%). Thematically, short-term advice to develop and kick-start security sector reform (DRC, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon,

Palestine), support for regional peace-building capacity (AU – AMISOM Somalia, AU-UN Mediation in Darfur), rule of law and transitional justice (Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia, Haiti), support to the UNMIK and the International Civilian Office in Kosovo, conflict resolution and reconciliation (Sri Lanka, Thailand, Colombia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Chad, Palestine, Burma), post-conflict or -disaster needs assessments (Lebanon, Peru), support for displaced populations (Lebanon, Syria), and conflict resources (the **Conflict Resources Facility**) have been the focus of activities.

(20) **African Peace Facility**, together with the Instrument for Stability, has supported the capacity building of the AU and RECs (Regional Economic Communities) institutions to equip and operationalise their Situation Centres/early warning systems as well as their capacity to plan and conduct peace support operations, including training of the African Stand-by Force. APF and EU MS's voluntary additional contributions continued substantial funding of AU-led peace support operations in Sudan (AMIS), Somalia (AMISOM) and in CAR (FOMUC). Furthermore, efforts to better combine Community and CFSP/ESDP instruments with activities of individual Member States led to the launching of "EURO RECAMP", a comprehensive training program for the African Stand-by Force. The EU has held a series of meetings with the African Union to determine the main aspects of the training cycle. In furtherance of the Action Plan of May 2007, the EU has also started to work on the provision of EU Support to African Centres of Excellence.

(21) The **EU Operations Centre**, which reached operational capability on 1 January 2007, was successfully activated for the first time during the EU Military Exercise 2007 (MILEX 07) conducted in June 2007.

(22) The **EU Exercise Programme** continues to provide the basis for exercising the EU's comprehensive approach to crisis management. Planning for the EU Crisis Management Exercise 2008 (CME 08), aiming inter alia to practice the co-ordination of both military and civilian operational planning, has been continuing in this context. CME 08 will be the first exercise in which Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability will play a role.

c) Policies and concepts

(23) In October 2007, a Joint Council Secretariat – Commission Services Working Paper on Security and Development was presented to Member States, which made recommendations on how

to bridge the security and development nexus and strengthen implementation and coordination. It led to the adoption of **Council Conclusions on Security and Development** in November, which spelled out general guidelines for more consistent and coherent external action of the EU. In addition, the EU report on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) issued in September 2007, assessed progress towards the PCD commitments in the area of security. It concludes that the EU has been strengthening the links between security and development and identifies outstanding issues to further enhance the synergies between the two policy areas.

(24) A Communication from the EC on “Towards an EU response to situations of Fragility - engaging in difficult environments for sustainable development, stability and peace” in October 2007 followed by **Council Conclusions on an “EU response to situations of fragility”** in November 2007 provide a good basis for further strengthening the EU's policies and practices in situations of fragility.

(25) The European Commission and the Secretary-General/High Representative prepared a joint report on climate change and international security for the European Council in March 2008 which was followed by **Council Conclusions** addressing the global **security challenges of climate change** and aimed at improving prevention and preparedness for early responses in that context.

(26) In the course of 2007, commitments to promote the role of women in peace building and enhance the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 were strengthened, including through the Communication “**Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Development Cooperation**” of March 2007. With regard to **Children affected by Armed Conflict** issues and the further implementation of UNSCR 1612, the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict were updated, the Checklist for the Integration of the Protection of Children affected by Armed Conflict into ESDP Operations was reviewed, and the Commission put forward the Communication “A Special Place for Children in the EU External Action”. In addition, the Slovenian Presidency mandated the study “Enhancing the EU Response to Children Affected by Armed Conflict, with Particular Reference to Development Policy”.

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

(27) A **Survey on Member States' capabilities and capacities** in the field of conflict prevention was conducted in April 2008. It showed that following the adoption of the Göteborg Programme in

2001, around half of responding Member States have built up capacities and capabilities dedicated specifically to conflict prevention.

(28) Member States carry out substantial activities in domains with a strong conflict prevention impact, such as **promotion of rule of law and good governance**, ceasefire monitoring and peacekeeping, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, environmental peace projects, transitional justice and reconciliation and gender issues, including by organising or hosting international conferences in support of, inter alia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian Territories.

(29) In order to address root causes of conflict, there is need to apply a **comprehensive, coherent and consistent conflict prevention approach**.

(30) The main geographical focus of Member states' **conflict preventive activities** lies in Africa and, to a lesser extent, in the Middle East, Asia and the Western Balkans.

(31) The majority of Member States **share information and best practices** on a regular basis, at various levels and in different forms and have regular contacts with the main international actors, regional organizations, NGOs and CSOs.

(32) There is a strong political will in Member States to further enhance national activities and international cooperation in this field. As a result of the survey, Member States have decided to launch an **exchange of best practices** with a view to assisting each other in facilitating the development of national capacities, capabilities and skills, and improving the coordination and coherence of EU activities in the domain of conflict prevention.

(33) To raise awareness and build up skills, a **two-year initiative** was launched by the Madariaga European Foundation and the Folke Bernadotte Academy supported by the Presidencies, the Council Secretariat and the **European Commission and the European Peace-Building Liaison Office (EPLO)** to arrange training for Council working groups on conflict analysis, preparing early options and implementing efficient early action in cooperation with other actors.

(34) In line with the identified "Training Requirements relevant to ESDP - Review 2007", the **"EU Training Programme in the field of ESDP 2007 to 2009"**, in particular the training activities of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and the ongoing activities of the EC Project on Civilian Crisis Management, financed by the Instrument for Stability, will also contribute to the effort of providing knowledgeable personnel for ESDP missions and operations.

(35) The ministerial Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference decided on 19 November 2007 that upon **conclusion of the Civilian Headline Goal (CHG) 2008** there was scope for further and more focused action in the field of civilian capability development for ESDP, and approved the **CHG 2010**, which aims at developing a body of civilian capabilities for crisis management under ESDP. It should help to ensure that the EU can conduct crisis management by deploying civilian crisis management capabilities of high quality, with the support functions and equipment required in a short time-span and in sufficient quantity. In February 2008, a Plan was adopted that outlines the implementation of the CHG 2010 throughout the year 2008. The implementation of the CHG 2010 started with work on a new common pilot scenario supportive of both civilian and military ESDP capability development processes, taking into account relevant capabilities available to the European Community.

(36) Within the **military Headline Goal 2010 process**, work has continued to be able to respond to crisis situations with rapid and decisive action covering the whole spectrum of crisis management operations. The Council noted a Force catalogue (FC07) in October and a Progress Catalogue (PC07) in November. Work is ongoing on elaborating a Capability Development Plan. With two Battlegroups on standby permanently since 1 January 2007, the European Union has reached full operational capability to undertake battlegroup-size operations in situations requiring a rapid response, including the ability to launch two such operations simultaneously. Work has been launched on fostering synergies between the civilian and the military capability development processes through a comprehensive approach.

(37) **EU special and personal representatives** continued to play a significant conflict preventive role by conducting regular and systematic dialogue with the leaderships of countries and regions, mediating between the adverse parties, contributing to the coherence and consistency of EU activities as well as communicating with international partners.

(38) The **European Neighbourhood Policy** (ENP) is a good example of the EU addressing conflict dynamics in a coherent fashion. The ENP Action Plans draw on all available tools whether first pillar (support for regulatory convergence, opening of trade opportunities, technical and financial assistance for post-conflict infrastructure rehabilitation, local income generation, the reinforcement of the capacities of ministries dealing with refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, or measures to promote the integration of minorities), second pillar (appointment of EU Special Representatives, demarches, political dialogue, **civilian or military ESDP** operations), or third pillar (visa bans, police co-operation actions). They can thus address conflict situations directly and indirectly, by focussing on the underlying issues of governance, economic development, and social cohesion. This includes promoting policies for the respect for human rights and the gradual transition to democracy and a market economy.

(39) The European Commission successfully chaired the **Kimberley Process** in 2007 and achieved a significant strengthening of this unique international instrument to combat conflict diamonds, through the implementation of the KP's 'reform agenda' and the modernisation of KP structures and procedures. The EC, as KP Chair, also delivered progress in a number of 'crisis situations' that posed a threat to the KP's effectiveness, notably in relation to illicit trade in Ghana and Zimbabwe. The Brussels KP Plenary meeting in November 2007 delivered major breakthroughs by reaching consensus on an initiative to tackle illegal diamond flows from Côte d'Ivoire and support regional stability. The EC Chairmanship of the Kimberley Process benefited from close coordination with civil society, and a coalition of NGOs was created to further support Kimberley Process.

(40) Significant developments took place in the course of 2007 in the context of the **EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade** (FLEGT), which is the EU's response to the problem of illegal logging and its associated trade. Negotiations on the conclusion of FLEGT Voluntary Partnerships Agreements (VPAs) with Malaysia and Indonesia continued, while Ghana and Cameroon launched VPA negotiations in 2007. The Republic of Congo, Liberia, Gabon and Central African Republic also expressed interest in concluding VPAs with the EU. Implementation of the FLEGT in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) region has also been launched in 2007 with the cooperation of the World Bank and international NGOs.

(41) In the EECCA region, where the issue of water management has potential for conflict over shared resources, the **EU Water Initiative** has enhanced its cooperation with partner countries. With the support of the Commission, following the EUWI meeting in December 2007 in Moscow, National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) on water have started in the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, and will be launched in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in 2009. These NPDs will provide a coherent framework to promote dialogue on trans-border water issues, using relevant experiences from the application of the EU Water Directive. A standing EU Central Asia Working Group on water was established in 2007, and meets regularly to discuss water cooperation and regional issues. At its meeting on 31 January 2008 in Bishkek, the Group discussed a number of assistance projects related to its common work plan.

(42) **Weapons of Mass Destruction** (WMD) and missile proliferation constitute a major threat not only for the EU but also for international security. In responding to the risks related to WMD, the EU has continued the implementation of its WMD Strategy through a number of EU Joint Actions, providing political and financial support to competent multilateral bodies and supporting UNSCR 1540 and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Efforts to reinforce the efficiency of exports controls by EU Member States have been further pursued. Assistance has also been provided to third countries to establish and improve their own export control systems. Work has also been taken forward to include a non-proliferation clause as an essential element in agreements with third countries. Such a clause has been included in agreements between the EU and almost 100 countries worldwide. Action Plans for countries under the European Neighbourhood Policy now also include provisions on non-proliferation.

(43) The disposal and control of the flow of **illicit small arms and light weapons** (SALW) are key elements identified in the Göteborg Programme for Conflict Prevention, as is the support for the implementation of the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines. The EU has been taking forward a variety of initiatives and projects for the implementation of the EU Strategy on SALW, adopted in December 2005. It has financed substantial projects in Africa, South-East Europe, the Middle East, Ukraine, Latin America and Asia. In February 2008, the European Council adopted a Joint Action in support of the international marking and tracing instrument.

(44) With a view to implementing the **Ottawa Convention**, the EU continued its support for mine action (including action related to Explosive Remnants of War) in line with the EC Mine Action Strategy and related Multi-annual Programming 2005-2007. Throughout 2007, mine action policy was pursued through various instruments for a total of EUR 33 million. Monitoring the integration of mine action into the European Community's external assistance programmes was further strengthened. The preparation of a Joint Action in support of the universalisation and full implementation of the Ottawa Convention was continued, and the Joint Action should be adopted shortly.

(45) As part of the EU engagement in the domain of **human rights and democracy**, the EU has been actively promoting the conduct of elections in countries having a fragile post-conflict situation or in a process of democratic transition. As part of this policy, financed under the EIDHR, the EU deployed long-term EU Election Observation Missions (EU EOMs) in twelve countries between January 2007 and April 2008 (Indonesia (Aceh), Mauritania, Nigeria, Timor Leste, Ecuador, Guatemala, Togo, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Pakistan, Bhutan and Nepal). With the deployment of these EU EOMs, the EU has aimed to enhance the transparency of the electoral process, contribute to the mitigation of violent conflicts during elections and encourage the peaceful settlement of electoral disputes.

(46) The EU continued to systematically **mainstream Human Rights** issues in the planning and conduct of ESDP missions and operations.

(47) **Gender** has become an integral element of analyzing conflict situations and setting strategic objectives of ESDP missions and training on gender issues is becoming a routine element in the mission training curriculum. The framework for implementing UNSCR1325 in the context of ESDP is now fully integrated in the documents and procedures. **Since 2006, gender advisers are routinely integrated in mission staff.** Within the framework of the EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace, special emphasis has been put on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and the improvement of capacities of relevant actors (national authorities, civil society, parliamentarians and journalists) in the third countries. Under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), projects have

been implemented focusing on equal participation of men and women in social, economic and political life. The Initiative for Peace Building, supported by the EC, includes a substantive gender pillar supporting diverse activities related to women, peace and security. In March 2008 a high-level conference “Women: Stabilizing an Insecure World” was organized by the European Commission in Brussels.

(48) In December 2007 the Council adopted the **EU Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child** and their implementation strategy. The new set of Guidelines enhances the European Union’s activities in the promotion and protection of the rights of all vulnerable groups of children by promoting a comprehensive and strategic approach **and complements the existing Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict**. To this end and in line with the **Checklist for the Integration of the Protection of Children affected by Armed Conflict into ESDP Operations**, the function of an adviser on human rights and children in armed conflicts was added to EUSEC RD Congo and EUPOL RD Congo. Through EC support, efforts have continued to demobilise and reintegrate former child soldiers, including in Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone and Uganda. Efforts have also been made to prevent the recruitment of children into armed groups or forces. The implementation of the EU Guidelines is supported under the EIDHR, and the thematic programme "Investing in People", which, in particular, provide support to various projects implemented by UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and NGOs. Furthermore, in cooperation with the European Commission and the European Peace-building Liaison Office (EPLO), the Slovenian Presidency, together with the Slovenian Centre for European Perspective, organised a conference "Increasing the impact on the ground - NGO and EU collaboration in the thematic area of children affected by armed conflict". The conference was part of the wider framework activities undertaken by the Slovenian Presidency in relation to the update of the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict, the review of the Checklist for the Integration of the Protection of Children affected by Armed Conflict into ESDP Operations, as well as enhanced co-operation with other stakeholders, especially NGOs.

(49) In the reporting period, the EU has continued its efforts to fully implement the EU **Counter-Terrorism** Strategy. In the field of countering radicalisation and recruitment into terrorism, the EU has engaged in the implementation of its Strategy and Action Plan on Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism, in particular through the implementation of the media communication

strategy of September 2006. The Commission has also initiated a number of projects and commissioned studies in this area with a view to the formulation of policy proposals in the course of 2008 with both intra-EU and external aspects. Preparation of the EC Communication on violent radicalisation, which has been considered a political priority, has begun. The EU has further engaged in political dialogue on the fight against terrorism with many countries and is providing counter-terrorism related technical assistance to some 80 countries and regions around the world in order to enhance counter-terrorism capabilities. In the framework of the Instrument for Stability, the first specific counter-terrorism programme ('Support to Counter-Terrorism Capacities') addresses the issue of terrorism in Africa, notably in cooperation with the African Union.

(50) In line with the Basic Principles on the Use of **Restrictive Measures** (sanctions) and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 (2006), 1737 (2007) and 1747 (2007), the EU has imposed sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and Iran. In November 2007, the EU decided to apply additional sanctions against Myanmar (Burma) in response to the brutal repression perpetrated by the Burmese authorities. At the end of April 2007, the ban concerning diamonds from Liberia was repealed. Liberia subsequently joined the Kimberley Process certification scheme for the international trade in rough diamonds. As regards the Western Balkans, the EU has continued to apply restrictive measures in support of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The EU has also continued to apply arms embargos against DR Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

#### **IV. Partnerships**

The EU continued to pursue its conflict prevention objectives wherever possible in close cooperation with other multilateral organisations, as well as with global bilateral partners and with non-state actors.

(51) The UN is an essential partner for the EU in crisis prevention, addressing crises, post-crisis recovery and peace-building. The implementation of the outcome of the United Nations World Summit in September 2005 remained one of the EU's priorities. In line with that, the European Union continues to help to strengthen the Peace-building Commission (PBC) and consolidate its role within the UN system through contributing to its work of advising and proposing integrated

strategies for post-conflict peace-building and recovery, bringing together all relevant actors to marshal resources, and further enhancing cooperation, coherence and coordination among all relevant actors. A framework for EU participation has been agreed, enabling the EU to actively participate in all aspects of the work of the PBC, both in country-specific meetings (Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau) and on a wide range of thematic issues. **Close cooperation on the ground with a view to implement PBC strategies will also be essential.** Cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme in conflict prevention and recovery was reviewed in December 2007. It was agreed to work more closely together on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and Security Reform (SSR).

(52) Working contacts with the UN have been further developed. The 6<sup>th</sup> EU-UN “desk-to-desk” dialogue on conflict prevention was held in November 2007 and focused on West Africa (including a specific session on Guinea Bissau), Chad, Somalia, the Great Lakes region, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. It allowed the EU and the UN to share their analysis of the situation in a number of country cases and exchange information on planned and ongoing activities, hence laying the ground for more regular working contacts.

(53) The 8th meeting of the **EU-UN Steering Committee on crisis management** on 31 January-1 February 2008 addressed geographical issues (Kosovo, Chad, Sudan, DRC, relations with the AU) and some horizontal issues ("Elections and Crisis management" and "Security Sector Reform"). There was close coordination in the planning of UN, ESDP and EC actions in Chad/CAR. The UN and the EU also cooperated closely on the planning of the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EU LEX). The two organisations also continued their close co-ordination regarding support to the AU Mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS), including the implementation of the UN support package to AMIS. The EU continued to support the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in coordinating donors' civilian efforts; and the ESDP mission worked closely and coordinated with the UN on police reform in Afghanistan. In the framework of the EU-UN Statement on Cooperation in Crisis Management, signed in June 2007, co-operation was intensified and a number of meetings at political level took place between the two organisations.

(54) The UN has also emerged as a significant partner within the framework of the Instrument for Stability. Examples include the cooperation with the Department for Peace Keeping Operations to support the UN police programme (training of Chadian police) or support to the Trust Fund for EU/UN Joint Mediation regarding Sudan/Darfur.

(55) Joint work on **post-crisis damage and needs assessment for natural disasters** (PDNA) and conflict (PCNA) scenarios with the World Bank and the UN started early 2007. This exercise builds on existing Post Conflict and Post Disaster work of the International Recovery Platform (IRP), OECD-DAC principles and the Paris Declaration on Harmonisation. It includes the finalization of the Post-Crisis Damage and Needs Assessment toolkit, early recovery guidelines and training for field staff and the full partnering in Post-Crisis Needs Assessment processes for multi-stakeholder recovery frameworks.

(56) Cooperation with the **OECD/DAC** has continued: the EC and EU Member States together with other bilateral and multilateral donors developed a common SSR Handbook in 2007, which is consequently being followed-up through a number of whole-of-government meetings and in-country consultations. Work on Guidelines for Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peace-building commenced in 2007 and work in the area of **prevention of** armed violence has also been taken forward.

(57) The EU has pursued its fruitful cooperation with the **OSCE** in Central Asia (Border Management Programme for Central Asia), the Caucasus (Economic Rehabilitation Programme in South Ossetia; Border Support Team of the EUSR for the South Caucasus), Eastern Europe (Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), as well as in the Western Balkans. In parallel with preparations for its presence in Kosovo, the EU has continued close co-operation with OMIK. The EU took note of the OSCE's reflections on a potential engagement in the area of border management with Afghanistan and expressed its readiness to work with the OSCE on this issue. Cooperation between OSCE field operations and EC Delegations has further progressed, namely as regards confidence building measures. With now 27 participating states out of 56, plus 10 others aligning themselves with its statements and initiatives, the EU continues to have a relatively strong weight in the OSCE.

(58) The **EU and NATO** have continued to further develop their strategic partnership in crisis management. In the framework of operation ALTHEA, co-operation has continued to work smoothly and efficiently.

(59) In May 2007, the European Union signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Council of Europe**. In accordance with the Memorandum, the two organisations will continue to develop and deepen their relations in all areas of common interest, in particular the promotion and protection of pluralistic democracy, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, political and legal cooperation, social cohesion and cultural interchange.

(60) The **Africa-EU** Lisbon Summit and the Africa-EU Joint Strategy have been major external policies achievements of the EU in 2007. The Strategic Partnerships on Peace and Security and on Governance provide a new and ambitious policy framework. The Joint Strategy establishes a new approach of political partnership between equals and ways of jointly addressing global challenges that affect both continents. The specific Action Plans on Peace and Security and on Governance will directly and indirectly impact on the prevention of conflicts in Africa and in the world.

(61) In 2007, the Council decided that the best way to strengthen the EU's collective presence in Addis Ababa was to create a new **common EC Delegation and EUSR Office exclusively dedicated to the African Union** (AU), headed by a person who at the same time is the European Commission Head of Delegation and EU Special Representative (EUSR) to the AU (double hat). The creation of this delegation to the AU, covering both security and all other areas falling under EC competence/administration, is aimed to reinforce the capacity of the EU to act jointly with our partners and enhance the overall impact on the security of the continent.

(62) Following the 2007 Summit Declaration which underlined the need for a comprehensive approach, the **EU and the US** have continued to work together in the field of both civilian and military crisis management and conflict prevention. The "Security Agreement" signed in May 2007 allowed for the further broadening of exchange of views and sharing of information. A work plan on "Technical Dialogue and Increased Cooperation in Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention" agreed in March 2008 sets out the concrete steps to operationalise this cooperation in a number of areas, with specific elements on conflict prevention and early warning. Regular staff contacts are ongoing to take the work plan forward, including information exchange on crisis management issues and operations of common interest, and coordinating support to enhancing African peacekeeping capabilities. It is anticipated that future contacts with the newly created US

AFRICOM will assist this coordination. Close cooperation continued in stabilisation efforts in the Western Balkans, in particular concerning the EULEX Kosovo rule of law mission.

(63) The EU and the US, along with other international partners, are also working together to seek to address the international concerns raised by Iran's nuclear programme. They share a commitment to the values of the OSCE and have worked together in the OSCE context, including on election observation and the OSCE's field missions.

(64) Pursuant to the 2007 Summit, the **EU and Canada** have worked to deepen their ongoing cooperation in military and civilian crisis management. Canada participates in a number of operations within the framework of ESDP. Canada has also confirmed its participation in EUPOL COPPS and EUPOL Afghanistan. Cooperation on crisis management and conflict prevention continues to develop through contacts and consultations with Canada's Stabilization and Reconstruction Team (START). The EU and Canada are also participants in Multi-National Experiment 5 (MNE5), a coalition project with the US and other partners including some Member States aimed at exploring a common approach to multi-dimensional, multi-actor crisis management. The EC and Canadian CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) are working closely on implementation and policy coordination, including through the OECD-DAC.

(65) In the framework of their intense political dialogue, the **EU and Russia** have frequently discussed countries and regions facing the risk of conflict. Russia has agreed to consider participation in EUFOR Chad/CAR. Regular contacts between the EUSRs for the Republic of Moldova, the South Caucasus and Central Asia and their respective interlocutors in Moscow have continued. The EU and Russia have also participated in international fora where issues of conflict prevention are discussed, including the UN, the OSCE, the Quartet for the Middle East Peace Process and the Contact Group on the Western Balkans. Consultations have continued on horizontal issues with relevance to conflict prevention, notably non-proliferation and the fight against terrorism.

(66) Cooperation with the civil society has been further enhanced. Under the Instrument for Stability, a **Peace-building Partnership** has been established that mobilizes and consolidates civilian expertise for peace-building activities. It was launched in November 2007 by the Commission and addresses not only civil society organizations but also international organizations

and relevant agencies in EU Member States in order to strengthen directly the up-stream capacity of the relevant partners to rapidly respond to a crisis scenario. The first (2007) Annual Action Programme under the Peace-building Partnership finances, inter alia, capacity-building and early warning activities and exchange of experience on best practices for civil society organizations; early warning and early recovery work with the United Nations Development Programme and the African Union; and training for civil stabilization missions. In addition the Peace-building Partnership is building upon existing work with relevant civil society organizations, which is being undertaken in the context of preparatory action for the establishment of a conflict prevention network (CPN). The consortium implementing the CPN is doing so under the title 'Initiative for Peace-building'. The actions are carried out under the headings of security, environment and natural resources, mediation, gender, democratization, and capacity-building in Southern, Central and Eastern Europe.

(67) A workshop arranged by the Madariaga European Foundation and the Folke Bernadotte Academy on cooperation between **EU and regional organizations** in the field of conflict prevention in November 2007 was the last piece of a two-year initiative. With a view to enhancing the EU role in international cooperation in the field of conflict prevention, the two NGOs launched a new two-year programme in partnership with the Presidencies, the EC and the EPLO. Within the framework of the initiative, a workshop and Dialogue Forum on climate change took place in April 2008. The challenges presented by the fight against illicit trafficking with small arms and light weapons, the media and religion in the context of conflict prevention will also be addressed by the programme.

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

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

### **Western Balkans**

(68) The EU's comprehensive approach towards the region enables the Union to address tensions 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 to promote reconciliation

are key elements of the Stabilisation and Association Process. As for regional cooperation, the EU had a leading role in the last year of activity of the **Stability Pact**, which continued to make a very important contribution to the SAA process in the second half of 2007.

(69) Though the Stability Pact will end in June 2008, the EU is ready to remain involved in the forthcoming implementation of the phased evolution of the Stability Pact into the more regionally owned Regional Cooperation Council established in February 2008.

(70) In February 2008, the EU adopted the Joint Action on the **European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo, EULEX KOSOVO**, with an initial mandate of 28 months and appointed the EUSR in Kosovo. Under the **Instrument for Stability**, the EC has provided EUR 10 million in support of the running costs of the **International Civilian Office (ICO)** in Kosovo.

(71) The EU has currently two other **Special Representatives** in the region (in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) who play vital roles in enhancing stability.

(72) In the security field, the EU continues to have a significant military and police presence on the ground. Through the EU-led military mission, **EUFOR Operation Althea, EU Police Mission (EUPM)** and other forms of EU engagement, the EU helps to contribute to a safe and secure environment as well as to efforts to support the reform of the security sector in **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, allowing further progress towards EU integration. The EU Police Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina's (EUPM) new mandate has been extended until 31 December 2009 with a focus on supporting the police reform process and continuing to consolidate local capacity in the fight against major and organised crime, with an outreach to the judiciary. The European Commission has continued to provide financial assistance through the Instrument for Pre-Accession, thus contributing to a secure and stable environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main focus of the assistance was related to the promotion of democracy and human rights, supporting the reform of the public administration, the judicial system and the police forces, supporting the return process and minorities, civil society and the media. Support for de-mining has continued under the Anti-Land Mines Action Programme.

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

(73) The EU has continued its active engagement in the **Middle East Peace Process** by participating in the work of the Quartet, supporting the activity of the Quartet Representative, normalising relations with the Palestinian Authority and providing direct assistance to it. Based on the Action Strategy "State Building for Peace in the Middle East" adopted in November 2007 and through the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) replaced by the new mechanism PEGASE from 2008, the EU has continued to facilitate international support for the building of the Palestinian state and economy and contributes to the implementation of the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan, which fully integrates Gaza. An Instrument for Stability programme of EUR 7.5 million finances several actions contributing to Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations in 2008 in response to the Annapolis undertakings. The programme supports international mediation by providing operational and logistical support to the Office of the Quartet Representative in Jerusalem. Further activities to be funded under the programme include building operational capacity of the Palestinian Civil Police in line with the Road Map, notably through equipment provision, in close co-ordination with the ESDP mission EUPOL COPPS.

(74) The five-year programme of the **Euro-Mediterranean Partnership** (Barcelona Process) has also considerably contributed to the enhancement of security, promotion of dialogue and reform processes in the region. The 9th Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in November 2007 took stock of the sectoral Euromed Ministerial Meetings and agreed to a work programme of activities for 2008 dealing in particular with challenges such as economic and social development, energy and climate change, civil protection, countering terrorism and extremism, European Neighbourhood Policy and promoting intercultural dialogue.

(75) The **EU Border Assistance Mission in Rafah** (EUBAM) had to suspend its third party presence at the Rafah Crossing Point (RCP) following violent events that occurred in Gaza at the beginning of June 2007. Since the closure of the Rafah Crossing Point, **EUBAM Rafah** has continued to maintain operational capability and is ready to redeploy.

(76) **EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS)** has continued its efforts in support of the Palestinian Civil Police. The mission supports the implementation of the Palestinian Civil Police Development Plan, including through the training of Palestinian police and facilitating and coordinating the provision of equipment.

(77) The increasing deterioration in security in **Iraq** in the course of 2007 led to large-scale migration both within the country and across the borders. The EC mobilised a wide range of financial instruments with EUR 50 million being devoted in 2007 to alleviating the conditions of displaced persons out of a total of EUR 110 million overall EC assistance. Other key areas financed in 2007 were rule of law actions, election preparations and improving public financial management. Negotiations for a Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Iraq, opened in 2006 and were continued in 2007 with two rounds of negotiations.

(78) **The EU's Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX)** was extended for a further 18 month-period until June 2009. To date, 1.500 Iraqi senior officials from the police, the judiciary and the prison service have been trained in an integrated fashion in the EU. In addition, work experience secondments for Iraqi officials have been organised in Member States. A bilateral project in the area of the Rule of Law, to be implemented by UNDP, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and other partner organisations with a view to improving the functioning of the sector, was funded by the EC in 2007.

(79) The EU and its Member States have undertaken intense diplomatic activity including the support for the mediation efforts by the UN and the Arab League to overcome the political deadlock in **Lebanon** since November 2006 and aggravated by a presidential vacuum since November 2007. During the reporting period, the EU remained the most important troop contributor to the enhanced UNIFIL peace-keeping force. The implementation of the ENP Action Plan adopted in January 2007 has become a major element in the EU's strategy of promoting Lebanon's stabilization through support for essential reforms. The EU is currently providing substantial financial support (EUR 4.0 million) to de-mining and unexploded ordnance clearance and will continue doing so until 2010.

The EU maintains its political and material support to the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. It has provided humanitarian assistance and shelters and is involved in reconstruction projects in areas affected by the 2006 conflict as well in those affected by the outbreak of violence that led to the destruction of the Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr al Bared. A EUR 6.8 million programme is providing assistance for the reconstruction of the Nahr el Bared camp under the Instrument for Stability. The programme aims to facilitate the return and progressive reintegration of 30,000 Palestine refugees displaced by the fighting. A further EUR 2.4 million were committed in Lebanon to support police reform and the German-led border security pilot project. The police reform project provides two senior European experts to assist the Lebanese police with the creation of a Control and Monitoring Committee and co-ordination mechanisms, paving the way for continued ENPI support covering all links in the criminal justice chain. The border security pilot project is a financial and technical contribution to the pilot project at Lebanon's Northern border supported by several Member States. This border management support aims to build Lebanese capacity to control the border with Syria, and thus to comply with UNSC Resolutions 1559 and 1701.

(80) The lack of a clear political will to reform on account of the regional and national situation, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the risk of terrorist infiltration, the presence of around 500 000 Iraqi refugees and the fact that the majority of the population is of Palestinian origin, complicate the successful implementation of the reform process in **Jordan** supported by the EU mainly through the ENP. Jordan succeeded in taking steps towards political reform, including a new Municipal Electoral Law, a law on political parties, the law on establishment of an anti-corruption commission as well as a law providing a legal framework for the National Centre for Human Rights.

(81) In response to the influx of the large number of Iraqi refugees outside Iraq (approx. 2 million in total) the Commission mobilised the Stability Instrument and the Development Cooperation Instrument in support of health and education structures in Syria and Jordan. This has allowed a better absorption of Iraqi refugees in existing structures and has contributed to a reduction of tension caused by an overburdening of service delivery systems.

### **Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

(82) The EU continued its efforts to promote a peaceful settlement of the **Transnistria conflict**, notably through the activity of the EU Special Representative for the Republic of Moldova and the

participation of the EU in the work of the so-called 5+2 mechanism on conflict resolution. The ongoing implementation of the EU-Moldova ENP Action Plan has been a further contribution to promote political and economic reforms in the Republic of Moldova. The biggest EU assistance project in the region is the EU Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), funded under the ENPI (European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument). The objective of EUBAM is to help enhance the capacities of the Moldovan and Ukrainian customs and border guard services along their common border, including on the Transnistrian section. Improved controls along the Moldovan-Ukrainian border help to reduce illicit cross-border flows of goods and human trafficking, while facilitating trade and cross-border cooperation. The prolongation of EUBAM until the end of November 2009 provides further impetus to improve the situation in the border areas.

(83) Over the reporting period, the EU devoted particular attention to the region of the **Southern Caucasus**. The EU Special Representative, having a political mandate to contribute to conflict prevention and assist with conflict settlement in the region, continued his work with a special focus on the resolution of the frozen conflicts (Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia and Abkhazia).

(84) The **ENP Action Plans** with the three South Caucasus countries, adopted in November 2006, are currently in their second year of implementation and have the objective, *inter alia*, to contribute to supporting democratic development, human rights, rule of law and good governance, socio-economic reform, fight against poverty and administrative capacity building. On 2 April the Commission adopted a set of Progress Reports on the implementation of the ENP Action Plans.

(85) An EU fact-finding mission to **Georgia** in early 2007 proposed a new set of confidence-building measures (CBMs). The implementation of the CBM package in Georgia and the conflict zones started soon after the consultations with all sides and especially after Georgia agreed to the proposed package at the end of July 2007. The implementation is led jointly by the EUSR for the South Caucasus and the EC Delegation in Tbilisi and takes place in close coordination with EU Member States and relevant international actors. Since November 2007, two EU Police Liaison Officers have been deployed to the UNOMIG sector HQ in Zugdidi, Georgia and the OSCE HQ in Tbilisi respectively. They have commenced their work and have begun to assess the state-of-play in the law enforcement field within UNOMIG's and OSCE's respective areas of responsibility. Lack

of trust is one of the major obstacles to progress towards peace in the region. The implementation of the Confidence Building Measures in Georgia therefore is of strategic significance. The seminars in October 2007 on the EU and Conflict Resolution in Georgia and in November 2007 on Minority Protection in Georgia, with the participation of independent experts and civil society representatives from Georgia including both conflict areas, have contributed to achieving this target.

(86) The mandate of the **EUSR Border Support Team** has been extended until 28 February 2009 and has been revised in order to allow the Team to liaise with all parties, including in South Ossetia and Abkhazia (a section of border is partly controlled by the Georgian Border Police), as well as with the OSCE and UNOMIG, on border management issues. The EUSR BST, in agreement with the Georgian government, will soon start liaising and developing contacts with the *de facto* authorities with a view to identifying possible future joint activities and projects.

(87) The implementation of the second stage of the Commission rehabilitation programme in **Abkhazia** is ongoing. In January 2008, a follow-up programme for the Georgia-Abkhaz conflict zone of EUR 4 million was signed with Georgia under the European Neighbourhood Policy and the 2007 Financing Agreement with Georgia. It will consist of three main components: economic infrastructure, income-generation activities and shelter assistance, with civil society support as an integral part. In **South Ossetia**, work continues on the implementation of the EUR 2 million allocated via the OSCE-led international donor programme. The Commission has prepared a draft proposal under the ENPI Action Programme for 2008, setting in motion internal procedures and sharing developments with the Georgian authorities. The budget allocation is currently in the range EUR 2-4 million with the balance of the 2008 conflicts allocation being proposed for work on implementing Georgia's strategy for refugees/IDPs and implementation of the other confidence-building measures.

(88) **The EU Central Asia Strategy** adopted in June 2007 constitutes the fundamental framework for the EU's activities in the region. The EU Troika at foreign minister level met three times in 2007 with Central Asia partners. Efforts have been intensified to gradually establish the principles of modern border management that create open and secure borders to facilitate trade and exchange in the region, and help combat regional criminal activity, especially related to international drug

trafficking. The Consortium of EU Member States created to provide technical assistance on these issues, in the framework of the BOMCA /CADAP Programme, met in September 2007 and invited the countries of the region along with the other donors and international organizations to define priorities for action in years 2008/2009.

(89) In **Tajikistan**, a monthly coordination mechanism has been established with international partners: EC, UNDP, OSCE, EU Member States (Germany, France, UK), representatives of the Government, the US and Russia to embark on a comprehensive integrated border management strategy. Rehabilitation of infrastructure along the Tajik-Afghan border has continued. The European Commission conducts related activities in close coordination with a similar border management intervention for the Northern Afghan border with Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and particularly Tajikistan (BOMAF), which entered active implementation phase in 2007.

(90) In **Kyrgyzstan**, the government decided in 2007 to draw up an integrated border management strategy with the expertise of new EU Member States. A main focus remains to improve the sensitive Ferghana border crossings and establish efficient trade corridors with neighbouring countries. In the reporting period, the EC supported advice from the Venice Commission (Council of Europe) for the elaboration of the new Constitution adopted by referendum in November 2007, and is following up through the Stability Instrument with two programmes aimed at the Parliament and the authorities, respectively, to accelerate implementation, notably for the reform of the judiciary and penitentiary system.

(91) In the framework of the Central Asia Strategy, a **human rights dialogue** will be established with all five countries of the region. Indeed, a dialogue on human rights was started in 2007 with Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, bringing positive results. A joint EC programme with the UN High Commissioner office on Human Rights has also been agreed with the Turkmenistan government on the promotion of human rights, as well as to support legal reforms.

(92) In relation to the newly established **Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre** (CARICC), the EC has launched a programme to strengthen the Interpol national offices in the region, as well as a programme aiming at the establishment of an operational network of forensic laboratories, forged documents identification and tracing of containers and trucks in the region.

## Africa

(93) The **EU-Africa Joint Strategy** and notably its **Peace and Security and Governance Strategic Partnerships** agreed in December 2007 provide a new and ambitious policy framework for conflict prevention in Africa. The partnership on Peace and Security and its Action Plan puts the emphasis for the coming three years on enhancing political dialogue and common positions, operationalising the Africa Peace and Security Architecture and establishing predictable funding for Africa-led peace support operations. The Africa-EU Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights proposes highly relevant priorities in the area of conflict prevention.

(94) The **EU-South Africa Strategic partnership** represents a further example of a comprehensive approach to security and development objectives, tackling the whole range of threats from root causes to reconstruction and stabilisation.

(95) The EU has continued its intense political dialogue with the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** that encompasses all topics of relevance to peace and security in the region, including the fight against drugs, migration and common efforts in political crisis. The efforts are also continuing under the EDF to provide assistance for drawing up a comprehensive conflict prevention strategy, electoral observation missions, electoral assistance, financing of a mediation fund with the Offices of the ECOWAS Special Representative in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Togo and Liberia and support for the election observation unit of ECOWAS. The EU Electoral Observation Missions deployed to Togo, Nigeria and Sierra Leone in 2007 complemented these efforts made with a view to strengthening transparent electoral processes and democratic governance.

(96) In relation to the **Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS)**, the EC has been supporting the MARAC (mécanisme d'alerte rapide - early warning mechanism), political dialogue and mediation, and capacity building for non-state actors in the field of conflict prevention. In 2007 the project focused on the establishment and consolidation of MARAC and of the Directorate of Political and Diplomatic Actions within ECCAS, including a study visit to the Commission in Brussels and the Joint Research Centre in Ispra on early warning mechanisms, and

support for the preparation of a strategic programme in the field of peace and security. The project has also initiated the development of a network between the ECCAS Secretariat and its Member States in the field of early warning, as well as with the non-state actors in the region. A regional seminar on Cross Border security has also been carried out.

(97) In 2007 started the implementation of the **Horn of Africa Initiative**. An action plan on water and energy, regional integration and infrastructure, food security/pastoralism and institutional capacity-building and culture was agreed at the EC's meeting with representatives of the Governments in the Horn of Africa and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Secretariat in Djibouti on 7 July 2007.

(98) In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the second half of 2007 was characterised by the new priority of the Government to address politically and/or militarily the armed groups in the east of the country. The efforts resulted in the signing of the Nairobi communiqué between the DRC and Rwanda in November 2007 and the convening of the Goma Peace Conference of January 2008 that can be seen as first steps towards sustainable peace in the East.

(99) The EU has actively contributed to the sustainable stabilisation of the DRC through the Security Sector Reform (SSR) comprising army, police and justice sectors. **EUPOL RD Congo** has continued its support of the reform of the Congolese police and the latter's interaction with justice, especially the operationalisation of the coordinating mechanism through the CSRP (Comité de Suivi de Réforme de la Police). **EUSEC RD Congo** is primarily focused on the reform of the military sector of the SSR process. Commission support has focused especially on capacity and infrastructure building as well as the establishment of provincial jurisdictions. During the reporting period, the European Commission increased its support to the country, in particular through the European reconstruction and stabilisation initiatives.

(100) In **Burundi**, the EU supports conflict prevention through an ambitious programme on good governance (both under 9th EDF and through around 40 actions under development). The objectives in this area are the following: (i) strengthening of state capacities and credibility, (ii) support for justice reform, (iii) support for decentralisation and (iv) preparation of the next elections planned for 2010. The ultimate goal is the healthy and transparent management of all civil services to ensure equitable access for each citizen to State services and to guarantee respect for human rights.

(101) In the **Central African Republic**, the EU continued its financial support for FOMUC (Force Multinationale en Centrafrique de la CEMAC) in 2007 through the African Peace Facility. FOMUC III's mandate was to contribute to the Central African Republic's security and restructuring of the armed forces and to accompany the national reconciliation process and the economic revival. In 2008, FOMUC IV's mandate will be to contribute to environmental measures linked to Security Sector Reform, to the national reconciliation process and to the development clusters project of the European Union. Furthermore, other projects include the organization of a national seminar on Security Sector Reform in April 2008, a capacity-building support programme for the National Assembly under the 9th EDF, a capacity-building support programme for the National Mediation Committee and for the all-inclusive political dialogue under the Stability Instrument and the police and justice support programme under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF.

(102) In January 2008, the Council decided to launch a one-year military bridging operation in **Chad and the Central African Republic (EUFOR Chad/RCA)** in accordance with the mandate set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007). EUFOR Chad/RCA contributes to the protection of civilians in danger, facilitates the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel, contributes to the protection of UN personnel and ensures the security and freedom of movement of its staff and UN and associated personnel. It also plays a role in ensuring security and freedom to operate for MINURCAT (UN Mission in Chad and the Central African Republic). The implementation of the operation is taking place in full coordination with the UN and in consultation with African partners, while ensuring a high degree of coordination with UNAMID. The force consists of some 3.700 troops provided by 14 Member states. Third states will also offer troops and/or assets to the operation. The EC provided support of up to EUR 30 million for humanitarian needs in 2007. A € 10 million programme to help fund over half of the cost of the UN MINURCAT programme launched under the Stability Instrument for the training and deployment of 850 Chadian police forces to maintain security in the refugee and IDP camps in eastern Chad. A further € 5 million programme under the Instrument for Stability was adopted for Chad to assist a census and proper voter registration with a view to the Parliamentary elections planned for 2009, following the agreement between the government and the opposition in August 2007. In addition, more than EUR 13million was allocated to implement the support programming to rehabilitation in Chad and RCA (9<sup>th</sup> EDF). Furthermore, the abovementioned activities are also

intended to help bring about a lasting stabilisation of the domestic political situation in Chad. Since May 2006, the EU has actively promoted an intra-Chadian dialogue, which resulted in the political agreement of 13 August 2007. The EU continues to support the implementation of this agreement. Additionally, the EU is actively involved in assisting in the implementation of the 13 March Dakar Agreement between the governments of Chad and Sudan.

(103) In **Uganda**, the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF Northern Uganda Rehabilitation Programme is currently the main framework for support to address the conflict situation. In addition, the EC is supporting actions in the field of mine awareness and victims' rehabilitation and the human rights activities of the UN Office for High Commissioner for Human Rights. In December 2007, a programme of €4.2 million was adopted to support peace and stability in Northern Uganda, and to address escalating violence in the Karamoja region in the context of disarmament. The programme supports, the Juba peace talks between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), including ceasefire monitoring capacity and awareness-raising of the local population. It also supports the disarmament process in the Karamoja region through facilitation of civil-military dialogue, community sensitisation, and alternative livelihoods / reintegration, as well as related cross-border initiatives with South Sudan. These initiatives contribute to the objectives of the Horn of Africa initiative, and pave the way for longer-term assistance under the EDF.

(104) In **Sudan**, the EU continued to support the African Union Mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS) by providing Military and Civilian Police experts, trainers and advisors, along with financial and logistic support under the African Peace Facility (APF). Including bilateral contributions from Member States, total EU support to AMIS amounted to more than €400 million. Furthermore, a programme of €3 million was adopted by the EC under the IfS to provide an EC contribution to the UN-administered 'Trust Fund for the AU-UN Joint Mediation Support Team (JMST) for Darfur'. This Fund was set up to support the joint efforts of the AU and UN to revitalise the peace process in Darfur and, in particular, to provide direct support to the negotiations phase of the peace process and related preparatory measures. Activities supported under the Trust Fund notably include strengthening JMST capacity, facilitating the preparation of parties, consultations with civil society, confidence-building measures and public information actions. Based on the UN Security Council Resolution in July 2007, the joint UN/AU Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), assumed authority from AMIS ( AMIS was incorporated into UNAMID) on 1 January

2008. The EC furthermore supports an important number of other projects such as the UNDP's Interim Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (IDDRP), the Justice Africa Programme for Conflict Prevention and Resolution, Confidence Building and Capacity Building in Darfur as well as Support to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA).

(105) The EU has provided assistance to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of **Somalia** to enhance national reconciliation and dialogue and fulfil its tasks, notably carrying out a census, proposing a new constitution and preparing for free and fair elections during the transitional period that ends in 2009. At the same time, the EU supports the African Union Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) through the African Peace Facility (€ 15 million) as well as through the Instrument for Stability (€ 5 million). In 2007, the European Commission provided support to the Security Sector Reform process in Somalia, with activities and priorities related to regional specificities, mainly through the UNDP Rule of Law and Security (RoLS) programme whose aim is to assist the authorities in the areas of law enforcement, judiciary, DDR/force reduction and respect for human rights. The UNDP RoLS, with an EC contribution of €7, 3 million, has had some marked successes in the northern regions (Somaliland and Puntland) while progress in South-Central has proved slower because of the volatile political and security situation. The RoLS programme is complemented by a Mine Action intervention also managed by UNDP and funded with Euro 2 million. During the reporting period the European Commission has continued its activities in the country through the appointment of a Special Envoy for Somalia in June 2007, providing financial support to the National Reconciliation Congress in July and August 2007, and setting up a forum for Non-State Actors.

(106) In **Ethiopia**, the EU conflict prevention activities focus on Justice Sector Reform, de-mining actions, strengthening democratic institutions and civil society in areas such as awareness raising, voter education and domestic election observation as well as on providing freedom of information which resulted in the establishment of a Press Council.

(107) **For Djibouti**, the strategy that has been adopted in the context of the EU conflict prevention programme for 10<sup>th</sup> EDF focuses on actions in the field of Security Sector Reform, Governance, Decentralisation, and support to civil society.

(108) In addressing the violence that erupted in **Kenya** after the Presidential election in December 2007, where the EU Election Observation Mission played an essential role in assessing fundamental shortcomings in the electoral process and recommending urgent electoral reform, the EU together with some key international players made efforts to settle the disputes in a peaceful way and prevent the deterioration of the situation.

(109) **Guinea Bissau** is on the road to political stability but the situation remains fragile: the country is in a period of transition leading up to legislative elections in October 2008, and there is a risk of further political instability in the preceding months. Given the fragile situation, the EU is enhancing its support, especially in the area of Security Sector Reform. Under the European Development Fund (EDF), a Justice Sector Reform programme was launched in 2007 which includes capacity-building, technical assistance, training of magistrates and prosecutors, penitentiary reform and infrastructure developments. Under the Instrument for Stability, the EC is deploying three technical experts for a 12-month period starting in October 2007. They are providing strategic advice to the Defence Minister and to the Technical Committee, in charge of implementing the national security strategy. This includes advising on the institutional framework for reform, legal reforms, instruments for compensation and reintegration, pension schemes and preparation of the remaining censuses. Based on a Council Decision in December 2007 and a Joint Action adopted in February 2008, an ESDP Mission, **EU SSR Guinea Bissau**, consisting of some 15 senior advisers plus support staff has been deployed to Guinea Bissau on 15 June 2008. The Mission will cover an initial period of up to 12 months from full deployment. It will provide advice and assistance to local authorities on reform in the areas of defence, police and criminal justice, in close cooperation with other EU, international and bilateral actors. The mission also aims at contributing to the implementation of the National Security Strategy. The forthcoming legislative elections have been included in the priority list of EU Election Observation Missions for 2008.

(110) Further support under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF is currently underway for compensation packages of the DDR process and pension funds for retired security personnel. The EC is also providing assistance in the area of de-mining. In addition, the European Commission pledged a contribution of 2 million Euros in December 2007 to support the implementation of the Emergency Anti-drug Trafficking Action Plan of the Government in its fight against drug trafficking as an important source of

regional instability. The ongoing preparations for free and fair legislative elections planned at the end of 2008 are also supported under the EDF. The EU is also engaged in providing support to the UN Peacebuilding Commission's strategy following the decision to add Guinea Bissau to the attention of the Peace Building Commission in January 2008.

(111) In the **Republic of Guinea**, the transient situation is complex and followed up in the framework of the article 96 of the reviewed Cotonou agreement. European Commission support is underway in preparation of the elections due to take place in November 2008.

(112) In the **Republic of Mali**, the EU activities focused on management of migration & asylum and support to economic development of regions of the Delta of Niger and the North under the EDF, with a view to stimulating employment and integrating young generations into the labour market thus contributing to the economical development of these regions to enhance stability and peace.

(113) The deterioration of the security situation in the regions of **northern Mali and northern Niger** gives reason for concern. The EU has condemned the abductions and the use, in violation of international conventions, of landmines, which constitute a great danger for the civilian population and are obstacles to the development of those regions. The EU has confirmed its support for the governments of Mali and Niger in their actions to preserve the peace and territorial integrity of their respective countries. Above all, it has promoted initiatives intended to strengthen national and regional cooperation to ensure security, peace and development in the Sahel-Saharan region. In this context, the EU supports the organisation of a regional conference addressing both security and development aspects, as announced by the President of Mali and supported by ECOWAS.

(114) In **Burkina Faso**, one of the main EU actions to promote the prevention of violent conflicts is to invest in governance. 10 % of the envelope A under the 10th EDF, € 50 millions have been devoted to support good governance and reinforce reforms in the area of justice, strengthen fight against corruption, support to elections and to the work of the National Assembly for the strengthening of actions in the area of democracy and especially for defence of human rights. Linked to conflict preventions are the measures undertaken to ensure food security, which also target institutional strengthening and easier access to financial means.

(115) The support provided by the EU to the Legislative and Presidential elections in **Sierra Leone** in July 2007 and the additional funding for the local elections in 2008 contribute to a substantial extent to consolidate democratic change in the country. The EU also participated actively in the discussions on Sierra Leone at the UN Peace Building Commission and the priorities identified have been taken into account in the new DFID/EC joint strategy.

(116) The EU continues its assistance in reforming the administration and improving public finances in **Liberia**. The training of 1,350 recruits by the National Police Training Academy, Liberia's Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration and Rehabilitation Programmes, including the reintegration of children formally associated with armed groups was supported by the European Commission. Following the lifting of the UN Security Council sanctions on timber exports from Liberia, the EC has been assisting the Liberia Forest Initiative to enhance the protection, governance and transparent use of natural resources of forests in the country.

(117) In relation to **Nigeria**, the EU has made further financing of the National Electoral Commission conditional upon the follow-up of recommendations of the EU Election Observation Mission deployed to the last elections. In the area of governance, the EC provides support to anti-corruption and institutional reform programmes and plans to support the justice sector including the police. Conflict prevention support is also provided to the management and resolution of Sharia influenced conflicts in communities in Northern Nigeria and capacity building for local NGOs/CSOs. In addition, the EC has continued financing initiatives to improve governance and fight corruption including the support to the financing of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission and to administrative and economic reforms in selected states. A new micro-project programme was also approved to support the rural communities in alleviating the impacts of the conflict and poor governance on this area.

(118) In **Ivory Coast**, cooperation in the field of conflict prevention is focused on political dialogue and on facilitating the crisis exit process, as well as the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants, governance, decentralisation, and on the organisation of elections. Under the EDF, €55 million have been allocated to peace consolidation and governance, including the reform of the security and justice sectors, € 125 million to social and infrastructure projects and HIV/AIDS prevention programmes for ex-combatants.

(119) In **Togo**, conflict prevention activities have focused on efforts as part of the political dialogue. The political dialogue had a positive impact on the October 2007 elections as did the EDF support in the areas of governance and confidence building, including the initiative “State of rights”.

(120) **Mauritania** has returned to democracy in an exemplary way and its efforts have been supported by the EU, in particular in the context of elections and management of the migratory flow as well as in the field of the judiciary sector, media and civil society. With becoming member of the partnership Euromaid (November 2007), the country has the possibility to participate in regional supports in the areas of security and counter terrorism.

(121) In **Senegal**, the EC support through the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> EDF especially addressed the latent conflict in Casamance through actions on de-mining as well as other development actions. In addition, support is provided to good governance, including justice reform, and to fight illegal migration.

(122) In **Cape Verde**, the EU action on conflict prevention concerns primarily external security, including in the area of fighting drugs trafficking. As Cape Verde has attained a good level of governance the country is considered mature for a new approach to cooperation. Thus, the EU and Cape Verde have established a Special Partnership broadening the cooperation to new sectors such as governance, security and stability (fight against illegal trafficking).

(123) In **Comoros**, in 2007 the EC provided support to the organisation of the Presidential elections at the level of the semi-autonomous islands. Under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF and together with France, further provision will be made to respond to the strong interest expressed by the country in support for governance. Support will also be provided to reinforce local capacities in organising elections.

(124) In the **Seychelles**, the EC provided support for the reinforcement of capacities of police officers and civil society, in particular journalists, and the judiciary in their understanding of the fundamental principles of human rights, codes of conduct, fight against corruption and money laundering.

(125) In 2007, the Rapid Reaction Mechanism funded two National Conferences on Governance in **Zimbabwe**, organised by Centre for Peace Initiatives in Africa and involving the relevant stakeholders of the Zimbabwean society, including the Government. This has been considered as the first step of an innovative process aiming at building up a national consensus on Governance, restoring confidence between the stakeholders and tackling the instability of the country in relation with the persistence of the economic, political, social and humanitarian crisis. In the run up to the March 2008 election, the EU particularly focused its activities on promoting dialogue and support to democratisation. Under the Instrument for Stability, EC support has enabled the implementation of several civil society projects aiming at raising awareness on the importance of participation in elections and ensuring a level playing field, capacity building for private stakeholders dealing with electoral matters, training and deployment of domestic observation and compilation and dissemination of observers' reports. These projects are in line with GAERC Conclusions on Zimbabwe, adopted in April 2007, where the Council urged all parties to engage with civil society, including the churches, to conduct a broad inclusive national dialogue, which is essential to lay the basis for genuine reform and national reconciliation.

(126) In **Mozambique**, EU action includes strategic partnerships, mechanisms for co-operation and capacity building with international, regional and national organizations and NGOs. In 2007, the EC supported the preparation of the conference against trafficking of human beings under the SADC auspices. An on-going 10 Million Euro project funded by the EC providing support to the penal justice-including crime prevention- is being implemented by UNDP. The Justice PALOP (Pays Africains de Langue Officielle Portugaise) project enables exchange and training of law-enforcement high-ranking officials and magistrates in European countries.

(127) In **South Africa**, the EU programmes for the prevention of violent conflicts stress the need of strengthening the sector “Democracy and Governance”, notably the Security Sector Reform and Civil Society. In the framework of the support to the national government, in the area of SSR, the EC contributes to strengthening the capacity in the Law Ministry, in policing and parliamentary oversight. There is also additional support under way to the national and provincial parliaments. Concerning support to civil society, EC action focuses on a programme which facilitates access to law and the promotion of constitutional rights.

(128) In **Lesotho**, EDF projects for capacity building of non-state actors in the area of SSR were financing through micro-projects for an amount of € 6.4 million. Support for improving the justice system, the fight against corruption and money laundering and to support the public account committees and other control bodies is also under preparation.

(129) In **Swaziland**, support to Security Sector Reform is forthcoming focusing on capacity building of non-state actors and good governance. The purpose is to strengthen the policies and institutions related to the rule of law, human rights and democratic principles, to ensure a stable and equitable development; and to strengthen public finance management to ensure optimal use of available resources.

## ASIA

(130) The EU has continued to follow its objective to contribute towards maintaining peace and stability in East Asia, in particular on the **Korean Peninsula**, attaching the utmost importance to progress on regional stability and non-proliferation issues, in particular denuclearisation. Although not a participant to the Six-Party Talks process meant to find a solution for the denuclearisation of DPRK, the EU has constantly supported this process. In this context, a Joint Action in support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitoring and verification activities in DPRK was adopted by the Council late 2007, the financial contribution being in the order of € 1.7 million. The EU has directly approached at regional directors Troika level the authorities in Pyongyang urging them to fully implement their commitments resulted from the Six-Party Talks and the relevant UNSC resolutions. It has made clear to Pyongyang that an improvement in EU-DPRK relations depends on wider political progress. The EU has also welcomed the steps taken towards inter-Korean reconciliation.

(131) Recognizing that progress on the rule of law is essential to the security and long-term stability in **Afghanistan**, the EU launched an ESDP mission in June 2007. Since its launch, the **EU Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)**, has further developed its action in Afghanistan in support to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA), providing advice on the reform of the Afghan National Police (ANP) and mentoring and monitoring

Afghan authorities. The strategic objective of the mission is to contribute to the establishment under Afghan ownership of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements that will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system and in accordance with international standards, within the framework of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

(132) The EC remains the **biggest donor to the Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA)** in support of salaries and reform of the Afghan National Police, with contributions of € 200 million since 2002. In addition, the EC launched a programme for reform of the Afghanistan's justice institutions. Funded with € 2.5 million under the Stability Instrument, it aims at professionalizing Afghanistan's main justice institutions -the Ministry of Justice, the Attorney General's Office and the Supreme Court by addressing systemic issues, such as the appointment of judges and prosecutors, improved conditions of service and pay-scales, or a legal aid system. Particular attention is paid to ensuring complementarity and mutual reinforcement among the activities of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN, the European Community and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to ensure that Security Sector Reform efforts are coherent. The EC external assistance programme for Afghanistan is strongly focused on addressing root causes of violent conflict, with a focus on rural development including alternative livelihoods in former poppy growing areas and Afghanistan's health sector. The EC has contributed € 130m to public administration reform and continued support for the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) as well as the border management programme amounting to € 19.7 million in 2007.

(133) The EC provides € 24 million in support of the **Indonesian** peace and reintegration process. A comprehensive support package focuses on the crucial areas of police reform, justice sector, local governance and reintegration of former combatants and political prisoners. In addition to the peace process support package, the Commission mobilised three advisers in the fields of post-conflict governance, reintegration and security sector reform. Furthermore, under the EIDHR programme the Commission funded a capacity building project for local journalists in Aceh to promote peace journalism. After monitoring the gubernatorial elections on 11 December 2006, a reduced EU Election Observation Mission was deployed to two districts to monitor the second round of elections for district heads in March 2007. Under the 'Aid to Uprooted People' programme the European Commission supported several projects in former conflict areas in Indonesia such as Maluku and Central Sulawesi. To address the remaining needs of a significant number of internally

displaced people, six projects are ongoing in four Indonesian provinces other than Aceh to support the recovery of basic livelihoods and promote conflict prevention and peace-building between communities segregated along ethnic and religious lines. Furthermore, the EC funded various EIDHR micro-projects on conflict management and prevention. The project 'Advancing Equality, Tolerance and Peace Among Young Religious and Cultural Leaders' focuses on the prevention of inter- as well as intra-religion conflicts. Another project addresses the economic aspect of reconciliation. A third project promotes participation in extra-school multi-ethnic organisations among students. On agrarian conflict, the EC funded a project aiming at improving advocacy capacities of peasant organisations and indigenous communities.

(134) In **Cambodia**, the European Commission has supported four projects on conflict prevention, including actions related to land disputes resulting from economic and forestry concessions that have impacted on the traditional culture, customs and livelihoods of indigenous peoples, domestic violence, political and election-related violence, threats and intimidation. An EU Election Observation Mission is considered for the forthcoming legislative elections of 27 July 2008.

(135) Following assessment mission in April 2007, the Commission has launched a programme in Southern **Thailand** in early 2008 under the Stability Instrument to provide support for the efforts of non-state actors in the conflict area, which work at bringing justice, strengthening the rule of law and restoring mutual trust and peaceful co-existence of various groups. Support will focus on the Justice Sector, confidence building, media, social dialogue, diversity and multi-ethnicity and the decentralization/autonomy concepts in Thailand.

(136) The EU has continued to follow actively the situation in **Burma/Myanmar**. A number of Council conclusions and EU declarations called for an inclusive transition to a legitimate, civilian system of government, national reconciliation including with ethnic minorities, as well as for the release of political prisoners, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. To support the good offices of the UN Special Advisor on Myanmar a special EU envoy has been appointed. In addition, the European Commission has provided support under the Stability Instrument to the office of the UN Special Envoy as well as provided support to a conflict mapping project.

(137) The EU has continued to support efforts to institute political and electoral reforms in **Bangladesh**, and has encouraged the creation of appropriate conditions for the holding of free and fair elections in 2008. The EU will observe the 2008 elections following the suspended elections of January 2007. In June 2007, the EU sent a Troika of senior officials to visit Dhaka and urge the government to maintain progress towards ensuring sustainable democracy. The EU priorities are set to instil confidence in the electoral process and improve human rights and good governance. Around 70 million euros are allocated for such programmes in the period 2007-2010.

(138) In coordination with international partners, the EU has supported the ongoing democratic transition and the peace process and continued its intensive political dialogue with the Interim Government in **Nepal**. An EU Troika visited Nepal in December 2007 to reiterate support to the peace process to contribute to getting the peace process back on track following the postponement of elections to a Constituent Assembly. These elections, held on 10 April 2008, were observed by an EU Election Observation Mission. A revised date for the elections has subsequently been set. The EC's commitment to peace building and post-conflict reconstruction in Nepal was demonstrated by launching an immediate package of € 7 million for support to vulnerable communities worst affected by the conflict. In addition, the implementation of a € 7 million Conflict Mitigation Package (CMP 2) started in early 2007 which is part of the overall EC strategy to support peace, rule of law and human rights in Nepal.

(139) The EC's country strategy for **Pakistan** for the period 2007-13 is designed to take the specific challenges the country is facing and the regional security situation into account. A key EC priority focuses on support to democratisation and reconciliation in Pakistan's politics. An EU Election Observation Mission was deployed in December 2007 to cover the national and provincial assembly elections of February 2008, as an EU contribution towards stability and sustainable democracy in Pakistan. These elections resulted in a significant shift of the political situation with a win for the opposition. The EC is also providing support in the area of human rights and democratisation as part of the EC country strategy.

(140) As co-chair of the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of **Sri Lanka**, the EU continued its support to the peace process and urged both sides to the conflict to return to the negotiating table. Immediate EU priorities for Sri Lanka were to press for an end to hostilities and

human rights violations and to ensure protection for NGOs active in the country. The EU sent a Troika of senior officials to visit Colombo in March 2008 to urge a political solution to the conflict. The new Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for Sri Lanka approved in 2007 has integrated a conflict-sensitive approach. On this basis, in 2007, the EC has approved a € 4 million programme whose overall objective is to contribute to peace building by enhancing the capacity for interethnic dialogue and for promoting and protecting human rights and humanitarian law in Sri Lanka.

(141) In the **Philippines** the EU has made a significant contribution through the Rapid Reaction Mechanism to support the peace process in Mindanao through Mindanao Trust Fund for sustainable development and the budget line “Aid to the Uprooted People” to facilitate the rehabilitation and integration of internally displaced peoples into the socio-economic mainstream. The EU has indicated its willingness to consider further support to the Mindanao peace process.

(142) Presidential and Parliamentary elections in **Timor-Leste** during 2007 were monitored by a large EU election observation mission. Further election support will be earmarked for local elections in 2008. The stabilisation programme launched under the Rapid Reaction Mechanism continued to be implemented in 2007. Measures included high-level mediation and technical support to a national dialogue process which contributed to a reduction of tensions between national players and key political forces. The new Country Strategy Paper adopted at the end of 2007 focuses on institutional capacity building especially in the areas of judiciary and the Parliament. The opening of a fully fledged Delegation in 2008 will allow reacting more quickly on developments on the ground. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a consequence of the violent outbreaks have been supported through humanitarian aid programmes.

(143) In **Papua New Guinea**, EU activities included support to the National Elections Media Centre during the 2007 elections. The programme provided training to all national media representatives so that they could have a sound understanding of the processes, systems and procedures in order to ensure that they provide fair and credible reporting of the elections. The role of non-state actors is also very important in Papua New Guinea to prevent conflicts. Under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, support is provided to enhance the role of civil society in the development process and to increase the dialogue with the government at all levels.

(144) In **Fiji**, under the 9th EDF, EC action in conflict prevention focused on support to the National Initiative for Civic Education with the amount € 800,000 implemented by UNDP. Additional EC programmes in Fiji in 2007 were “Transforming our Communities through Good Governance” and “Democratisation, Human Rights and Ethnic Group reconciliation in Fiji Islands” Other programmes are currently being implemented including “Support for the Fiji Human Rights Commission”.

(145) In **Tonga**, under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, EC action on conflict prevention has supported a programme for reconciliation and civic education “Imagining Tomorrow; Towards a Peace Building Education for children” (contracted by Live and Learn Environmental Education in 2005-end in 2009- € 200,000).

(146) In **Vanuatu**, EU action on prevention of conflicts is based on the Technical Cooperation Facility for various issues. For instance, follow the work of Electoral Office, organize seminars about Women in Decision Making and support Transparency International in the preparation of the National Integrity Reports. In Vanuatu, there is also an active project with NSA which includes the support to the advocacy role of VANGO as NGO representative in the dialogue with the government.

(147) In **Solomon Islands (SI)**, from 2006 to 2008, there are two main activities in the framework of conflict prevention: (i) A forestry programme is funded under STABEX (4.5 million Euro) of which € 300.000 are used to support the public Solicitor’s Office for legal assistance to communities. This activity aims at contributing to build peace on land and forest management ; a major area of conflict in the country; (ii) in cooperation with the Regional Assistance Mission in the SI, and the UNDP a Provincial Governance Strengthening Programme is support under 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, with a budget of € 4.6 million. This programme aims at strengthening the decentralisation process in the country which weakness is also seen as one of the root causes of ethnic tensions in the country since its independence in 1978.

(148) The EU actively participates in the **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)** and has helped to expand its mission to also include preventive diplomacy, the actual scope and nature of which is currently being developed.

## Latin and Central America

(149) In **Colombia**, ongoing EC cooperation is focused on two flagship initiatives: the Peace Laboratories and Assistance to uprooted populations. The Peace Laboratories build upon, and aim to strengthen, local movements of civil resistance to the conflict and the clear commitment of the local democratic institutions and of organised local civil society to create, collectively, the conditions for peaceful coexistence and alternative development. The Rapid Reaction Mechanism support to the Justice and Peace Law in Colombia came to an end. Three new projects under the Instrument for Stability were launched in 2007, such as a provision for victim-oriented assistance, including legal assistance to victims, support to victims' organisations for transitional justice policies, and promotion of truth, justice and integral reparation as a contribution to peace-building and reconciliation (EC contribution: € 5 million). The conflict in Colombia will continue to be the focus of EC assistance also in the future. The CSP 2007-2013 allocates 70% of overall funding under the first National Indicative Programme (2007-2010) to the area of peace and stability.

(150) In 2007, the EU followed closely the political situation in **Ecuador**. In April, Ecuadorians in a referendum backed the proposal of President Correa for the establishment of a Constituent Assembly (CA). An EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) was sent to observe the elections for the members of the CA and stated that the results were legitimate and democratic. The EU EOM formulated a number of recommendations for the reform of the electoral system in view of the constitutional referendum and possible legislative elections foreseen for the latter part of 2008.

(151) In **Peru**, the Commission has implemented a conflict prevention project under the Rapid Reaction Mechanism, with the general objective of supporting the consolidation of democratic governance by empowering regional governments, municipalities and social civil society stakeholders to prevent conflicts and violence (Jan. - Oct. 2007; € 405,000). The objective of the intervention is to promote social peace and stability in areas experiencing emerging crises in Peru and to ensure recovery after natural disaster that constitute threats to stability.

(152) In **Venezuela**, two projects supporting NGOs, with the objective of creating confidence, dialogue and stability in a complicated pre-electoral period, were carried out. Other EC-funded

activities aimed to prevent potential conflicts resulting from territorial disputes involving indigenous people, through activities aimed at demarcating indigenous territories and thus avoiding violent clashes with economic interests in the areas in question.

(153) Throughout 2007, and especially in the last quarter, the EU continued to pay close attention to the continuing tensions in **Bolivia** as the Constituent Assembly struggled to prepare a draft constitution which reflects adequately the differing interests and opinions of this divided country. Calls by the EU for moderation on all sides and for dialogue were very well received, and appear to have had a moderating influence on both sides. As a contribution to mitigating conflict in relation to the production of coca and cocaine in Bolivia, the Instrument for Stability is being used to finance an 18 month study of the traditional demand for coca leaf. The study aims to underpin revisions to the legal framework of the government's anti-drugs policy.

(154) **Chile** is beneficiary of an EU Humanitarian De-mining Project. The EU support amounts to € **1 million of the total cost** of the action (€ 1.5 million). The project duration is 24 months and was expected to end in December but an extension until April 2008 was granted. No more funds have been allocated for de-mining operations in Chile since 2005. The project objectives include among others de-mining training, equipment provision, awareness-raising.

(155) In **Guyana**, EU action on prevention of conflicts is based on the Regional action on crime and security. Under the contribution agreement with CARIFORUM, one of the objectives concerns the reduction of supply and demand for illegal drugs. In that context, three programmes are in the pipeline: (i) support to the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) (€ 800.000); (ii) CARICOM Regional Demand Reduction programme (€ 800.000); (iii) support to CARICOM capacity building for Law Enforcement Agencies (€ 400.000 ).

(156) The negotiation of an **Association Agreement with Central America**, which will include a free trade area, political dialogue and cooperation, was launched in 2007. Security issues related to the fight against terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and serious crimes of international concern are discussed as part of the negotiation at different levels. A specific provision related to conflict prevention will also be foreseen in the document.

(157) On invitation by the Government and the Electoral Commission, the European Commission organized an EU Election Observation Mission for the Presidential, legislative and municipal elections in **Guatemala**. In addition, through the EIDHR, support is provided to strengthen the respect of human rights and the EC will contribute in 2008 up to € 800, 000 to the UN sponsored Commission against Impunity (CICIG) newly created to investigate crimes carried out by illegal and clandestine bodies and to fight the high level of impunity of the country. The CSP foresees also a new programme aiming at the prevention of youth delinquency starting in 2008.

(158) Security and Justice has been a focal point of the EU contribution to the peace process of **El Salvador** for a number of years. Being a priority of EC cooperation the partially funded project “Social Prevention of Violence and Youth Delinquency in El Salvador” (PROJOVENES) comes to its end in 2008 and has been considered a success.

(159) Security and Justice has been a key priority of the cooperation with **Honduras**. The current Country Strategy Paper includes a justice and public security programme of € 44 million which was launched in 2007 and aims at developing a comprehensive public security and justice policy in order to reduce public insecurity by bolstering law enforcement, strengthening the judiciary and improving prevention to reverse the marginalisation process affecting the younger generation and its drift towards criminal youth gangs.

(160) A Budget Support project on access to Justice in **Nicaragua**, € 17 million was launched end 2007. The program targets mainly the revision and implementation of a new Criminal Law Code of Procedures to improve access to justice and security with a special focus on most vulnerable social sectors, as well as the strengthening of capacities of the institutions dealing with civil security.

(161) **In Haiti**, in light of the results of 2006 presidential and parliamentary elections, the attention was paid to the peaceful political transition, increasing of the security level and restoring of the good governance practices. Under the Stability Instrument programmes were funded to rehabilitate key infrastructures and public spaces, as well as support livelihoods and job creation. In October 2007, the UN Security Council extended MINUSTAH mandate for another year and broadened its

scope to cover external borders management prone to illegal drug and human trafficking. The 10<sup>th</sup> EDF programming exercise resulted in an extensive list of the government commitments aiming at improving the main governance aspects. Significant government commitments have been undertaken especially in the areas of the judicial and law enforcement system, internal security, government effectiveness and corruption control. The 9<sup>th</sup> EDF joint Canada-EU programme to support justice system was pursued.

(162) In **Jamaica**, under the EDF, a programme is being carried out to enhance the capacity of the executive and judiciary to manage crime; and in collaboration with communities to prevent crime and to uphold the rule of law. EU support will be provided through a Sector Policy Support Programme for GOJ policies in the inter-related areas of security and justice, provided that the eligibility conditions are fulfilled. Such a programme would focus on both (a) the underlying causes of crime and violence (b) institutional strengthening for government agencies concerned and (c) access to justice and human rights. The National Security Strategy of the GOJ offers a good basis for the development of such a programme.

(163) In **Trinidad and Tobago**, EU action on prevention of conflicts is primarily focusing on Security Sector Reform. Under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF a sector budget support programme to non-university tertiary education aims to assist male drop outs from schools so that they are given a “second chance” with their schooling/career options rather than taking the often taken route to gang culture and the subsequent violence that this entails. In addition, a part of a regional programme for the years (2007-2010) aims to enhance the capacity of CARICOM Member States to respond to the threats posed by the negative impact of the illegal drug trade, by strengthening regional institutions involved in the fight against illegal drugs and crime.