



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 23 November 2006

15741/06

**CIVCOM 534
PESC 1169
COSDP 964
RELEX 839
JAI 637
PROCIV 240
DEVGEN 300**

NOTE

from : Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management
to : Political and Security Committee

Subject : Recommendations for Enhancing Co-operation with Non-Governmental
Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the Framework
of EU Civilian Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention

In view of the meeting of the Political and Security Committee on 24 November, delegations will find attached the recommendations for enhancing co-operation with Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the framework of EU Civilian Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Crisis Management Procedures¹ foresee consultation and co-operation with civilian actors, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and note that modalities for co-ordination in the field need to be developed in the context of ESDP. The aim, in particular, is to contribute to increasing the operational efficiency.
2. The Action Plan for Civilian Aspects of ESDP² welcomes regular exchanges of views with civil society organisations (CSOs) in relation to the orientations of civilian ESDP and early warning.
3. A number of NGOs and CSOs have considerable expertise and knowledge in the field of civilian crisis management and conflict prevention.
4. Further efforts to enhance co-operation with the NGOs and CSOs should, i.a., build on:
 - the experience of the European Commission in co-operating with NGOs and CSOs through operational work and established partnerships, in the area of Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention,
 - the experience within the ESDP field in co-operating with NGOs/CSOs, e.g. the NGO "Crisis Management Initiative" (CMI) in the establishment of Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM),
 - the need to ensure a comprehensive and transparent approach vis-à-vis the key EU partners in crisis management in line with European Security Strategy,
 - the results of the Conference on "Enhancing Co-operation between Civil Society and EU Civilian Crisis Management" held in Helsinki on 27-28 September 2006³.

¹ Doc. 11127/03 (Suggestions for procedures for coherent, comprehensive EU crisis management)

² Adopted by the European Council 17-18 June 2004

³ See Conference report dated 17 October 2006

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the above, CivCom recommends to further enhance ESDP co-operation with NGOs and CSOs through:

- regular informal exchanges between NGOs/CSOs and the appropriate level of Council bodies, in particular the PSC and CIVCOM, in line with paragraph 22 of the Action Plan. The results of these exchanges should, where appropriate, be reported to the relevant Council bodies.
- fact-finding or pre-planning missions should take into account, where appropriate, NGO and CSO knowledge and experience.
- exchanges of views with and feedback from partners, local stakeholders and local populations, as appropriate, in view of mission evaluation/lessons learned processes.
- the establishment of NGO/CSO liaison functions, as appropriate, within civilian crisis management missions in line with the findings of Workshop IX on “Required capabilities in Mission Support for ESDP civilian crisis management missions”.
- the identification of NGO/CSO liaison officers within the Council Secretariat, with a view to strengthening its capacity to dialogue with civilian agencies, NGOs and CSOs.
- the establishment of modalities for routine information exchange with relevant civilian agencies and civil society groups at the field level, in close collaboration with the European Commission.

Furthermore, CivCom encourages

- providers of training for civilian crisis management to ensure that EU-level training addresses issues of cooperation with civilian actors, in particular through briefings by relevant external actors, including NGOs and CSOs,

- Member States to consider, in accordance with their national legislation, expertise from the NGO and CSO sector, when establishing or developing rosters for deployment in civilian crisis management missions.
- the NGOs and CSOs to take a pro-active engagement with the EU in civilian crisis management at policy and operational level.

FOLLOW-UP

The issue of EU co-operation in crisis prevention, crisis management and post-conflict peace-building will be further developed under the German Presidency. Additional recommendations may be identified in this context.

In the light of the progress made in their implementation and taking into account developments in civilian ESDP and EC efforts in Civilian Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention, these recommendations will be reviewed in 2008 and further steps considered, including the ideas of a possible concept for co-operation with civil society and of an EU - NGO arrangement in the framework of Civilian Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention.