



THE EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE (EPC), in cooperation with the SOFIA OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (ECFR)

ON BEHALF OF THE IRISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



is pleased to invite you to a workshop on

THE EU AS A PEACEMAKER – ENHANCING EU MEDIATION CAPACITY

**Grand Hotel Sofia
1 Gurko Street
1000 Sofia, Bulgaria**

Friday 17 May 2013

The promotion of peace and prevention of conflicts are at the heart of the European Union project and underpin Europe's engagement with the world. European peace mediation capacity has been progressively strengthened since the birth of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. The recent innovations introduced by the Lisbon Treaty and the creation of the European External Action Service, with its mediation support team and EU Delegations with global reach, have all contributed to enhancing the EU's mediation capacity.

Against this background, it is time to assess the strengths, weaknesses and added value of the existing tools, institutional set-up and mechanisms to identify possible steps to further improve EU mediation capacity, including through a European Institute of Peace. This workshop aims to draw on recent national, European and international peace mediation experiences in order to discuss with the community of institutional and societal peace mediation actors the options for strengthening Europe's role in this area.

PROGRAMME

- 9.00 Welcoming remarks
Mariya Gabriel, Member of the European Parliament
- 9.10 Keynote speech
Nikolay Mladenov, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria
- 9.20 Scene-setting
Malgorzata Wasilewska, Head of Division, Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Mediation Instruments, European External Action Service (EEAS)
- 9.30 **Session 1: Lessons learned: how does the EU support peace mediation?**
Drawing on recent peace mediation efforts, coordination between the diverse local, national and EU actors on the ground and with headquarters is a key element of peace mediation. What are the different EU tools and how could the synergies between them be maximised? What is the role and value of different diplomatic approaches? How is the EU engaging with international organisations, member states, NGOs and local actors?
- Rosa Balfour**, Senior Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre (EPC) (Chair)
Vessela Tcherneva, Analyst, Centre for Liberal Strategies, and former Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria (*tbc*)
Daniela Kolarova, Executive Director, Partners Bulgaria Foundation
Marin Lessenski, Analyst, Open Society Institute-Sofia
- 10.15 Discussion
- 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.45 **Session 2: Challenges ahead: institutions and policies to strengthen European peace mediation**
Peace mediation needs to be one of the key tools in EU's comprehensive response to conflict and crisis. There needs to be continuity of engagement and transfer of knowledge over time and between key actors. How can the remaining gaps in the peace mediation toolbox be best addressed? In what ways can the EU strengthen its support to national, international or NGO-led peace mediation efforts?
- Rosa Balfour**, Senior Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre (EPC) (Chair)
Brian Glynn, Director of the Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland
Juan Diaz, Berlin Representative, MediatEUR
Catriona Gourlay, Research and Knowledge Manager, PeaceNexus Foundation
- 12.30 Discussion
- 13.30 Concluding remarks
Mariya Gabriel, Member of the European Parliament
- 13.35 End

Proceedings will be in English and in Bulgarian. Simultaneous translation will be provided.