

Question for written answer E-005205/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Eija-Riitta Korhola (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Follow-up on EU mediation and dialogue principles and capacities

In 2009, the Council adopted the Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities with the aim of a more coordinated and focused approach and of playing a more active international role in this area. Through the Concept, mediation and dialogue became officially recognised as policy tools for the Union. Consequently, a Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Mediation (CPPM) division was also established in the newly founded European External Action Service (EEAS).

Fulfilling the role of mediator would require more support than is presently available (Herrberg, 2012, ISIS Europe). This has been remedied by, inter alia, training for EU Special Representatives (EUSRs) and EEAS delegations as well as projects financed by the rapid-reaction mechanism (2001-2006) and the Instrument for Stability (from 2007 onwards). Considerable lobbying by the peace-building NGOs led to Parliament's decision for a pilot project of EUR 600 000 to enhance the capacity of the CPPM division, with a view to setting up a more permanent mediation cell. In 2010 the governments of Finland and Sweden also suggested setting up a European Institute for Peace.

At the same time, other regional organisations have also set up their mediation structures, and may arguably be more prepared to take up mediation and dialogue tasks than the EU. These organisations include the African Union, the League of Arab States, the OAS, IGAD, ECOWAS, ASEAN, the OSCE, CARICOM, CSTO, CICA, the Council of Europe, NATO, the PIF and the OIC.

1. Is the EU equipped and flexible enough to send mediators, in case an urgent need emerges (in particular compared to the other regional organisations mentioned)? How is this ensured, and what concrete evidence is there to this effect?
2. Does the EEAS consider the 2009 Concept on Mediation and Dialogue to be fully implemented? If not, what are the main shortcomings?
3. Is there any communication still taking place between the EEAS and the governments of Finland and Sweden with regard to setting up a European Institute for Peace? What is the interest for such an instrument among Member States?
4. Are there any plans in place to create a post for an EUSR for Mediation as suggested by Herrberg?