



Ålands fredsinstitut

The Åland Islands Peace Institute

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Issues for Discussion re. European Peace Institute / EU mediation at EP 20/9/2012 Brussels

General reflections

1. The problem of terrorist lists: what solution?
2. Mediation and its relation to conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction. When does mediation start and end?
3. What can the EU offer? Political weight, financial resources, human resources but above all knowledge
4. **What goal for mediation? End of hostilities, peace agreements, comprehensive conflict settlement, constitutional design/reform, transformative empowerment and positive peace / human security**
5. **Mediation as a technique vs. mediation by example: the role of Europe as an example of peaceful solution of conflicts and transition to democracy (with its black spots). The EUs role in promoting reflexive discussion in- and outside Europe**
6. **Re-linking in longstanding conflicts (youth issues in particular)**
7. Ensuring that the 'grassroots' are on board and supportive of any proposals

Possible problems:

- a) *From the perspective of people on the ground in conflict situations*
 - Unclear mandate and political power: what carrots and sticks?
 - Are more mediators really needed?
 - Multilevel mediation as a fact: the problem of coordination. Who ensures coordination vis à vis the local population?
 - What is the international legal responsibility if something goes wrong?
 - For liberation fronts seeking for recognition, not very appealing?
 - Will the EU legal framework (e.g. Charter of rights) be applicable?
- b) *From the perspective of the EU*
 - How can an intergovernmental organization create a non-governmental organization?
 - Undermining the work of the EEAS?
 - How much is rather longterm development aid?
 - Issues of internal/EU coordination (policy issues)
 - Is it possible to get real credit for work done by 'consultants'?
 - What shall be the 'moral foundation' of the new structure? The revised European Foreign and Security Policy? But the European experience is not accounted for
 - What about conflicts within the EU? (Basque country, Cyprus, severe minority problems in several countries)

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