



The Role of the European Parliament in the Future of the Instrument for Stability

In Cooperation with Michael Gahler MEP (EPP) and
the Conflict Prevention and Security Policy Directorate, EEAS

25.01.2011, 12:30h - 14:30h

Representation of Lower Saxony to the European Union,
Rue Montoyer 61, 1000 Brussels

Background

Since the creation of the Instrument for Stability (IfS) in 2007, the European Commission has substantially strengthened its global efforts in crisis management and peacekeeping. The IfS provides funds to support programmes addressing actively security issues all over the world. With the advent of the EEAS, there is a double challenge for the Instrument for Stability: Already so far, the long-term capacity building part of the Instrument has had less visibility than short term crisis response measures (e.g. Haiti). In the new structures of the EEAS the short-term and long-term parts of the Instrument may be administered in different sections (short-term IfS in the “crisis management/CSDP” part while long-term IfS in the “thematic” part). This may involve risks to the overall coherence of this Instrument and to implementing the comprehensive approach outlined in the European Security Strategy, spanning from development assistance to CSDP missions with the IfS providing the indispensable link. Roles and responsibilities of the EP for all these components vary, but coherence is clearly a key factor of success.

It is therefore important to address how the share of political, administrative and financial responsibility among the different administrative and political actors (EEAS, Commission, Council, EP, national Parliaments...) involved in the various situations where the IfS applies can be organised in a manner to strengthen the Instrument rather than weaken it by administrative incertitude. This event was rescheduled towards this new date in order to maintain utmost relevance and ensure the effectiveness of the Workshop as the plans and role of the EEAS are expected to become more concrete.

Goal of the Event

This roundtable is supposed to involve key MEPs in the discussion on the future of the IfS and make them aware of the political stakes. The event should achieve the following:

- Present results of the IfS stakeholder conference on IfS priorities (2./3.12.)
- Raise awareness among MEPs about the issues surrounding the IfS
- Kick-start a debate among MEPs about the future role of IfS

Key questions

- Given the interlinking of the IfS as a Community instrument, its place in the EEAS with its special status and activities in the CSDP area needing to be coordinated with the IfS, who calls the shots on IfS activities?
- More specifically, what will be the role of MEPs regarding the IfS and which degree of political influence and scrutiny should the EP have?
- Which organisational model should the IfS follow to link all stakeholders involved?
- How will the administrative link between long-term and short term measures be?
- How will be the link between the IfS and CSDP actions?
- How will budgetary responsibilities (EU Budget, national budgets) be shared and the financing of long term and short term measures will be organised?

Format

This is a working Luncheon with an EEAS contribution. The Luncheon will see a moderated discussion about the future role and organisation of the IfS.

Participants

Interested Members of the European Parliament representing parliamentary groups and relevant committees will be invited to present the Parliament's view on the issue. They will discuss together with participants from the Commission, NATO, International Organisations and Think Tanks.

The debate will be moderated by Christoph Raab

Programme	
12:30 - 12:40	Welcoming Remarks by Michael Gahler MEP, Coordinator SEDE, Group EPP
Luncheon	
Introductory Statement of the Conflict Prevention and Security Policy Directorate, EEAS	
12:40 - 14:30	Results of the conference “The ESS: Using the IfS to address long-term security threats” and of the Consultation Meeting on the “IfS’s Crisis Preparedness Component” will be presented: Richard Wright - Director, Conflict Prevention and Security Policy, EEAS
Moderated Discussion with MEPs about the role of the EP in the future role and setup of the IfS.	
The language of the meeting will be English. Participation is by invitation only and the Chatham House Rule will apply.	