

14 December 2005

Activities of the European Union in the field of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Combatants (DDR) - link with ESDP missions

For several years now, the European Union/European Community has been devoting resources to peacebuilding programmes such as Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of former combatants in post-conflict situations.

Such programmes are vital in ensuring that EU and other donors' programmes of reconstruction and development in conflict areas actually can lead to a sustainable peace.

Nevertheless, information from several sources indicates that, despite some successes, DDR programmes have often been unsuccessful and that improvements in their planning and implementation are necessary and that lessons can be learnt.

In which DDR operations has it been involved, in which regions, in cooperation with which international partners, and what was the financial cost thereof?

What procedures has the Commission established so as to ensure efficient implementation and to evaluate the outcome of these programmes?

How are the lessons learnt from such evaluations applied to future programmes?

What problems has the Commission encountered, or is it encountering, in such implementation, and what are the causes of these problems?

Bearing in mind the DDR procedures led by the UN and the Swedish Government that are due to be published in the next few months, does the Commission envisage EU-specific solutions to address these problems in both strategic and practical terms, and how will it close the gap between its strategic analysis and planning in 'Brussels' and other headquarters and the real-life situation on the ground?

To what extent are DDR programmes developed and managed as an integrated component of EU ESDP missions, e.g. in DRC, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Sudan and Aceh?

As a major donor, is the EU playing a role in the discussion on interagency standards in the UN system?