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Activities of the European Union in the field of Disarmament, Demobilisation 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 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.

How is the issue of DDR incorporated into the EU strategy to combat the illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and ammunition for such weapons?

How does the Council cooperate with the Member States and with the Commission in order to ensure maximum efficiency in the field of DDR?

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

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?