

1 EFGP 3rd Congress, Berlin – Draft Resolution

2
3 Introduced by Agalev

4 5 **CONFLICT PREVENTION: A MAJOR PRIORITY** 6 **FOR THE EU EXTERNAL RELATIONS** 7

8 In the year 2001, the EU adopted – at the end of the Swedish Presidency – its Gotenburg Programme for
9 the Prevention of Violent Conflicts. That programme confirms the prevention of conflict by peaceful
10 means to be a major (if not the first) priority of the emerging Common Foreign and Security Policy
11 (CFSP) and the European Union Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). Since then, all EU institutions
12 have adopted substantial positions on the issue of EU conflict prevention, and the European Parliament
13 has taken the stand that the development and use of peaceful means must be considered a higher
14 priority than the development of the military Rapid Reaction Force.

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16 Conflict prevention demands a structural long-term strategy and the development and enhancement of
17 short-term instruments.

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19 For a structural long-term approach:

- 20 1. socio-economic: sustainable development in the social, economical and ecological fields;
- 21 2. cultural: democratisation and the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence;
- 22 3. arms: disarmament;
- 23 4. juridical: enforcing human rights, international humanitarian law, the international judicial order and
24 international co-operation and integration, capacity building;

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26 For a short-term instrumental approach:

- 27 5. development and enhancement of instruments for short-term crisis-prevention.

28 29 1. Regarding sustainable development in the social, economical and ecological field:

30 The EU should work on bringing more justice into international trade. Access to the European
31 market for LDC's should be seriously improved. Dumping of agricultural surplus on the world
32 market should be stopped. The position of LDC's in the WTO should be strengthened. The fight
33 against poverty has to become a central objective for all relevant international institutions in this.
34 Debt cancellation for LDC's has to be a priority. The EU should continue to build economic
35 partnerships with the Cotonou-agreement as an example.

36 37 2. Regarding democratisation and the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Non-violence:

- 38 2.a The EU should promote a strengthening of the European PHARE, MEDA and TACIS programs.
39 These programs should devote sufficient attention to democratic education, human rights
40 education, training in non-violent conflict handling, interethnic dialogue and exchanges between
41 countries.
- 42 2.b The EU and the member states should contribute to the UN decennium for a Culture of Peace
43 and Non-violence, by promoting the inclusion of peace-education and training in non-violence,
44 into the educational curricula throughout the world.
- 45 2.c In post-conflict reconstruction, the EU can support the installation of truth-commissions in post-
46 conflict areas.
- 47 2.d Women play a key role in prevention of conflict and building of peace. Post-conflict
48 reconstruction has to be subjected to a 'gender impact assessment' and women's organisations
49 have to be sufficiently involved in this.
- 50 2.e The EU should work hard to maximise democratic transparency and the implication of the
51 European Parliament and the National Parliaments of the EU member states, with the
52 development of the Common External and Security Policy and the European Security and
53 Defence Policy of the European Union.
- 54 2.f The EU should support independent, democratic and decentralised media throughout the world.

55 56 3. Regarding disarmament:

- 57 3.a The EU must make serious efforts to take into account the conclusions of the United Nations
58 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and support the struggle
59 against the unbridled distribution of such weaponry.
- 60 3.b The EU has to increase the effectiveness of the European code of conduct on arms export: the
61 code must become legally binding; the code must also take on arms brokering; a new European
62 arrangement for end-user certificates is needed.

- 1 3.c The EU has to work on the enforcement of the EU program for the prevention and the fight
2 against illegal trade in conventional arms.
- 3 3.d The EU must support the UN-initiative regarding conflict diamonds and the creation of a world-
4 wide certificate system.
- 5 3.e The EU should make sure that, in post-conflict reconstruction, sufficient efforts are dedicated to
6 demilitarisation, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants.
- 7 3.f The EU should insist that states which have not yet signed the Anti-Personnel Mine Treaty,
8 would do so as soon as possible. Anti-manipulation mechanisms also have to be incorporated
9 into this treaty. The EU should support initiatives to ban cluster bombs.
- 10 3.g The EU must see to it that the International Convention Against the Recruitment, Use, Financing
11 and Training of Mercenaries is properly implemented.
- 12 3.h The EU should support initiatives in the struggle against the use of child soldiers.
- 13 3.i All US-nuclear weapons should be removed from Europe.
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- 15 4 Regarding the enforcing of human rights, international humanitarian law, the international Rule of
16 Law and international co-operation and integration:
- 17 4.a The EU should promote trainings in International Humanitarian Law to Military forces, specifically
18 in the Balkans, Eastern Europe and the Middle-East. Violent conflicts tend to get worse when
19 regular armies commit disproportionate and indiscriminate violence.
- 20 4.b The EU should strengthen the UN and work towards one EU-seat in the UN-security council.
- 21 4.c The EU must seriously work towards a quick realisation of the enlargement of the Union and
22 increase the financial means for the pre-accession fund.
- 23 4.d The EU and the member states should insist that states which have not yet signed the treaty on
24 the International Criminal Court would do so as soon as possible.
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- 26 5 Regarding the development of instruments for short-term crisis-prevention
- 27 5.a The civilian Rapid Reaction Capacity should also be deployable in pre-crisis situations and
28 should gradually evolve into an European Civil Peace Corps, according to the concept as
29 adopted by the European Parliament on several occasions, financed at EU Community level, and
30 fully making use of the forces of civil society and NGOs.
- 31 5.b The EU has to form a working group on smart sanctions. These sanctions should allow not to
32 hurt the entire population, but rather the power elite these sanctions are aimed at.
- 33 5.c The EU has to investigate how, in the field of conflict prevention, a regular consultation with the
34 OSCE and the UN can be brought about, analogous to the structured consultation with the
35 NATO in the field of crisis management. Within the Union should also be investigated, how EU-
36 instruments for conflict-prevention within the framework of OSCE and UN initiatives can be
37 incorporated.
- 38 5.d The EU should strengthen the efficiency of humanitarian aid and augment its potential on the
39 field of crisis prevention.
- 40 5.e The EU should strengthen the Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit (PPEWU) of the
41 European Council's General Secretariat. The PPEWU has to grow into a source of expertise in
42 the field of the development and enhancement of coherence and effectiveness of instruments for
43 prevention of conflicts.