

EU's 50th Anniversary - Berlin Declaration

As the platform of European peacebuilding organisations, we attach great importance to the inclusion of references to peace and conflict prevention in the Berlin Declaration for the 50th anniversary of the European Union. Following the presentation of Chancellor Merkel's plan of the Declaration on 8 March 2007, the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) presented the following suggestions for the different paragraphs of the Declaration. **EPLO also supports the Civil Society Contact Group campaign: www.act4europe.org.**

History: referring to achievements

Fifty years after the signing of the Treaties of Rome, the European Union achieved to bring and consolidate peace on most of the European continent. The European Union has become a leading international actor strongly committed to the promotion of its values worldwide.

Values

The values and ambitions of the European Union must take account of the realities of a world in which there is conflict, poverty, insecurity and inequality in many countries and regions. The European Union is based on the values of peace, justice, solidarity, respect for human dignity, fundamental freedoms, democracy, equality and the rule of law. All these values must apply for all people both inside the EU and throughout the world.

Challenges for the future

The European Union has the ambition to promote peace in all parts of the world – and to act as an example of promoting peace with peaceful, and by preference, non-military means. The European Union will ensure that all of its policies and actions are conflict sensitive and that the promotion of peace will take precedence over narrow self-interest. The European Union will deliver on its commitments to eradicate poverty, continue efforts to ensure that all policies are coherent with development objectives; and to promote economic and trade justice, and sustainable democracy.

Commitments

To deliver on its commitments, the European Union will have to develop a coherent framework to ensure existing and future instruments and mechanisms are aimed at promoting mutually reinforcing policies leading to sustainable peace, and to increase its capability to act globally.