

Contributing to global stability and peace - Council confirms deal with the EP on improvements to the EU's assistance instrument

On 27 October, EU ambassadors endorsed a compromise between the Presidency and the European Parliament on **improving the EU's instrument for contributing to stability and peace (IcSP)**.

This agreement introduces a possibility for the EU to extend its assistance by allowing for the financing of measures in support of capacity building for security and development (CBSD) of military actors in partner countries, with the objective of contributing to sustainable development and in particular the achievement of peaceful and inclusive societies. This new measure forms part of an EU-wide strategic framework to support the security sector reform. It also aligns the objectives of the instrument with the commitments made by the EU towards the UN sustainable development goals and the recently agreed new European consensus on development.

"These improvements recognise that sustainable development depends on addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting peace and stability. From now on, we will be able to provide training, resources and equipment to partners to help them in their efforts to prevent violence and promote stable, peaceful and inclusive societies" said Kaja Tael, permanent representative of Estonia to the EU and president of the permanent representatives committee.

The IcSP was first set up in 2014 as part of the EU's new generation of instruments for financing external action. It is one of the main tools to help prevent and respond to crises in third countries as part of ensuring a secure and stable environment.

Under the new rules agreed today, the EU will be able to assist the security sector and, in exceptional circumstances, support the military in various ways, including through:

- financial support to enhance the competence of the military to carry out development and human security-related tasks such as the reconstruction and rehabilitation of civil infrastructure, mine clearing and civil protection tasks;
- supply of equipment and infrastructure for the military in the areas of IT, transport, communication, water infrastructure and sanitation;
- training, mentoring and advice.

The regulation does not allow EU assistance to be used to finance recurrent military expenditure, the provision of arms and ammunition or lethal equipment or combat training.

The new measures will be financed primarily through the redeployment of existing resources under the general budget of the Union (Heading IV of the multiannual financial framework). They will be allocated €100 million for the period 2018-2020.

The next step is for the Parliament and the Council to formally adopt the regulation, with a view to its entry into force by the end of the year.

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