



## *Church and Peace*

*Church and Peace* - the ecumenical Peace Church network made up of communities, training centres, peace organisations and peace-service agencies in Europe.

### **European peace network Church and Peace warns against extension of EU's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace to include military support to third countries**

*Schoeffengrund, 12 October 2016* - The EU Commission must not be allowed to go ahead with its proposal to extend the *Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)* to include the aim of strengthening the military capacity of third countries", according to the Administrative Committee of the Church and Peace network.

"Given the huge number of tasks in the field of civilian peace building, the EU Commission's proposal for military capacity building to be funded in future from the very limited budget for civilian measures, which took a lot of political work to establish, is unacceptable. And the 100 million Euro which the EU Commission wants to spend on this over the next four years will very probably be taken out of the Instrument for Development Cooperation (DCI)", observes Antje Heider-Rottwilm, chair of Church and Peace.

Church and Peace warns: "This proposal is formulated in such broad and general terms that it is unsuitable for combatting instability, conflict and other causes of flight and migration. On the contrary, it has the potential to strengthen rogue regimes and their armies and militias. In addition to this, the extension of the IcSP is a back door to the creation of an EU defence budget."

According to the Commission, ammunition and weapons are excluded. But services are defined so broadly that the EU would become an exporter of military goods and services, e.g. through construction of military bases, and provision of communication systems and real-time situation analysis - facilities which play an equally decisive role in warfare as lethal weapons do.

"This policy is very much in line with initiatives for upgrading armed forces which some European governments have been promoting for several years. We are horrified to see that this approach is now part of the EU's Global Strategy which was presented by Federica Mogherini, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, end of June 2016. We are especially critical of the idea that development policy should be more flexible and aligned with strategic priorities (see Church and Peace [press statement on the EU's Global Strategy](#), issued on 1.7.2016).

We issue a strong warning against such a fundamental paradigm shift. This proposal is a further step towards funds for peace and development being used for other goals such as military capacity building or control of migration. This undermines the credibility of a foreign policy which talks about good governance, and social and economic development. And the use of military force to deter refugees replaces measures to combat the causes of violent conflict."

#### **Background:**

The **Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)** was created in 2007 and revised in 2014 because the EU lacked an instrument which filled the gap between security policy and development policy with a civilian approach. The legal basis for the IcSP is found in the articles in the Lisbon Treaty on development (Article 209 TFEU) and technical cooperation (Article 212 TFEU). This means that all measures must be in pursuance of development goals. The budget of 2.3 billion Euro for 2014-2018 serves both the strengthening of EU policy in the field of civilian rapid crisis response, especially support for humanitarian measures, and civilian conflict prevention and peace building through support of the UN and capacity building through civil society initiatives, especially mediation, dialogue and support for reconciliation processes. It also includes training and preparation of police for international missions and demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants, including child soldiers. IcSP is the only budgetary instrument for civilian crisis prevention and conflict management. An extension to include military purposes would be illegal according to the assessment of various EU legal services; it would seriously damage the special civilian nature of the IcSP, and would threaten to dominate or even supersede the civilian approach entirely.

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