

Annual report 2001

European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation

and

European Centre for Conflict Prevention

The eyes and ears of the international community

“Organisations such as the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation can play a key role. They can be the eyes and ears of the international community in gathering information on potential conflict situations and raise the alarm when there are signs of smoke. The better integrated the network, both among its members and in relation to international organisations, the greater the impact of the information that is collected. A co-ordinated, targeted, and informed approach will strengthen the credibility of the information and give it a better chance of being channeled into the policymaking pipeline.”

Max van der Stoep, former High Commissioner on National Minorities for the OSCE
(preface in the book *Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia*)

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Foreword

THE NEED FOR A COALITION FOR PEACE

The year 2001 was overshadowed by the attacks on the USA of September 11 and the war in Afghanistan. Feelings of solidarity and compassion with all those innocent people that were affected by these events were accompanied by feelings of worry and uncertainty about the consequences of these attacks.

At the risk of generalising, this was certainly true for people working in the field of conflict resolution and prevention. When discussing the consequences of the attacks at our conference on lessons learned (Soesterberg, October 2001), some colleagues openly shared their doubts on the actual impact of the work of peacebuilders, seeing how easily these efforts can be undermined. In general however, the events only strengthened us in our conviction that much more should be done in tackling root causes of conflict, such as poverty, environmental degradation, drug trafficking, and illicit arms trade, repression, exclusion and power struggles, in order to deal with the 'breeding ground' for terrorism. At the same time much more attention must be given to alternative, that is, non-military, prevention and resolution of violent conflicts. After the Coalition against Terrorism, we have, in the words of Vasu Gounden, director of the South-African NGO ACCORD, to move our efforts one step further: *'We have to evolve a Global Framework for Co-operation, which would define the roles and responsibilities of all*

'Since the horrific attacks of 11 September, the world has found itself united as never before. Millions of people across many societies and cultures have reaffirmed their understanding that we all belong to the same human family. They have expressed, in their grief and solidarity, the shared values that make up our common humanity.'

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN'S
MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
TOLERANCE
NOVEMBER 16, 2001



Paul van Tongeren

the actors, and which would guide our collective modus operandi in situations of conflict. This framework should take into account our experiences during the last decade. It should also be based on comparative advantage and mutual respect.'

The first steps in this respect are being taken. For a couple of years now, and especially after the wars and genocides in Rwanda and Kosovo, conflict prevention and peace building have been making remarkable inroads on the political agenda. Recently, the EU, the United Nations and the G8 all voiced their belief in the need to do more to reduce the potential for violence and to support mechanisms to ensure lasting peace. The complementary role of the different actors, such as government, civil society or business has also been emphasised.

The field of conflict prevention and peace building has evolved as well. The Platform project, 'Towards Lessons Learned on Peace Building', which aims to collect, discuss and disseminate lessons learned and

best practices, proves that there is a process of accumulation of knowledge and growing professionalism in this field.

The European Platform, and its secretariat, the European Centre evolved along the lines of the evolving field as a whole. The Platform was established in 1997 to 'facilitate the exchange of information and experience among participating organisations, as well as to stimulate co-operation and synergy'. The first problem that had to be tackled was the fact that the field was (and in many ways still is) scattered, and nobody had any overview of who was doing what and where. The first task of the Platform was therefore to create a system of information exchange and provide an overview of organisations and people working in the field of conflict prevention and peace building, which resulted in the 'Searching for Peace Programme', which aims to record, describe and analyse prevention and management efforts in the main violent conflicts in the world, and includes directories of the main organisations working in this field.

A second problem was the relative ignorance of the field on the level of policy makers. Led by International Alert and Saferworld, the Platform managed to raise conflict prevention issues in the political arena, through advocacy and lobbying activities, aimed at the European Union and governments. A good example of further co-operation in this respect was the creation of the European Peace Building Liaison Office in 2000.

At this moment a third important task is being developed. Conflict prevention and peace building may be firmly on the political agenda at this

moment, for the public at large conflict prevention and peace building remain unknown issues. This makes it very difficult to raise public support to do more (and to invest more) to prevent violent conflicts. For this reason, the European Centre plans to initiate a campaign, showing examples of successful conflict-prevention or peace-building activities, with the objective of reaching a wide audience with the message that conflict prevention works.

Finally, the role of the European Centre has also changed. Besides acting as the secretariat of the Platform, the European Centre started to discover its 'own' identity. It conducts lobbying and awareness-raising activities in the Netherlands, organises round table debates and conferences, and has facilitated expert meetings. As a consequence, clarification of the mission, tasks and functions of both the Platform and Centre is needed. The European Centre hopes in the future to build on the areas of success of the past: its clearinghouse function, its network function and especially its developing *forum* function: facilitating the exchange of information and development of ideas on a specific topic between academics, governmental officials, and practitioners. The European Centre aims to be a service and facilitating organisation for the whole field of conflict prevention and peace building, internationally. A good example of this was the international conference 'Towards Better Peacebuilding Practice', organised by the European Centre, in close co-operation with near twenty other NGOs in this field.

Paul van Tongeren
Executive Director, European Centre for Conflict Prevention



Some of the main accomplishments in 2001

Improving networking and expansion of contacts

- A total of ten seminars, three conferences and twenty workshops were organised, ranging from 25 to 300 participants in several countries;
- In several of these meetings the issues of improving networking itself and of concrete collaboration between different actors, both state and non-state, were discussed;
- As a result of the Searching for Peace Programme the number of key Platform contacts increased to approximately 1,300 contacts world wide; the number of resource persons on specific conflicts or conflict regions reached approximately 400.

Clearing House

- A number of initiatives have been taken to better serve, and gain the participation of, local civil society actors. Within the Searching for Peace programme greater attention is being given to providing a voice to local and regional NGOs, and on co-operating with local actors, and in acting as a bridge between NGOs, networks, academic institutions and resource persons in the North and in the South. This resulted in seminars discussing the conflict surveys of their own regions and their lessons learned in their conflict prevention and peace-building activities in Almaty (Kazakhstan), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Colombo (Sri Lanka), New Delhi (India) and Accra (Ghana).
- Work continued on the publications *Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia* (published in March 2002) and *Searching for Peace in Central and South Asia* (published in August 2002)

Lessons Learned

- The Lessons Learned project aims to help the formulation of common lessons learned in the field of conflict prevention. It should contribute to expertise and policy-making on conflict prevention and conflict management. “Lessons Learned” and “Best Practices” which experts have found crucial are formulated and integrated to stimulate greater coherence and a consolidated

body of knowledge in this field. In 2001 the ECCP organised three regional seminars, one expert meeting and a large international and national (Dutch) conference on this issue. At the international conference ‘Towards Better Peace-building Practice’ some 300 persons from over fifty different countries participated, in sixteen different work shops.

www.conflict-prevention.net

- The first phase of the rebuilding of the Platform’s web-site has been completed. The new address www.conflict-prevention.net, a brand new system of databases, and a new layout, should ensure that visitors have access to more and better searchable and accessible information about conflict prevention and peace building.

The Swedish Presidency

Aiming to influence the agenda of Swedish Presidency of the European Union, in May the European Platform organised in co-operation with the Swedish Peace Team Forum the conference Gripsholm-II. At this conference issues were addressed such as: priorities for the European Union to enhance the EU’s conflict prevention capacities; lessons learned from conflict interventions; national infrastructures for conflict prevention; and establishing Civilian Peace Services. One of the main conclusions of Gripsholm-II, the necessity in all countries of establishing an ongoing dialogue between state actors and relevant NGOs dealing with the complex subject of prevention of violent conflicts, is also recognised in *The EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict*, which was endorsed by the Göteborg European Council of June 2001.

Increased Funding support

- The amount of donors and of financial support in general has again increased, which allowed us to end the year 2001 with improving results. At present our work is supported by eight governments.

Foreword

WORKING WITH THE UN

The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation has been working in these fields for about five years now. In the beginning all of us who were involved in the work of the Platform both on national and international levels had a lot of obstacles to cope with. The concept of prevention was not well known by the public, there were no major resources for NGO-work in this field and the role of NGOs in conflict prevention was not well acknowledged by the other international actors.



Anne Palm

peace and security by offering non-violent avenues for addressing the root causes of conflict at early stage. Moreover, NGOs can be an important means of conducting Track II diplomacy when governments and international organisations are unable to do so. (...) International NGOs also provide studies of early warning and response opportunities, and can act as advocates in raising the international consciousness of particular situations and in helping to shape public opinion”.

Now the concept of conflict prevention has become much more known and is popular with the public

We should develop more co-operation with the United Nations and other international and regional organisations.

and the decision-makers. Many NGOs are doing valuable work in many conflict areas and, together with local civil society, can make a big difference.

Unfortunately we are still lacking

some very much needed resources both at the national and international levels.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, published last year a remarkable report on the prevention of armed conflict. In the foreword of the report he says *“since assuming the office, I have pledged to move the United Nations from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention”*. His ideas are based on the Charter of the UN, which according to Annan provides the foundation for a comprehensive and long-term approach to conflict prevention based on expanded concept of peace and security.

Although the UN report mainly deals with the tasks of the governments and the UN system itself, it still recognises the role of the NGOs. According to Annan, *“NGOs can contribute to the maintenance of*

The acknowledgement that the UN Secretary-General gives to the

NGOs is very important for our work. We should develop more co-operation with the United Nations and other international and regional organisations. Working together we'll understand each other's work better, avoid overlapping and also be stronger.

The European Platform has emphasised the development and strengthening of national networks. There already exist several national conflict prevention networks, for example in the UK, Germany and Finland, but we need many more in order to create a true European network of national conflict prevention platforms. In the European Platform the national networks can share experiences, learn from the others and - perhaps - create joined projects. The Platform can be a valuable help for national networks in creating contacts all over the world.

The European Platform has proved its usefulness and strength. It has already created some new ideas and forms of co-operation. We all hope that the Platform will get more resources, both financial and spiritual, to continue this work, and further develop the concept and practice of conflict prevention.

Anne Palm
Secretary General of Citizens' Security Council Katu, Finland
Member of the European Platform Steering Group

Introduction

AN OPEN NETWORK

The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation is an open network of some 150 key European organisations working in the field of the prevention and/or resolution of violent conflicts in the international arena. Its mission is to facilitate the exchange of information and experience among participating organisations, as well as to stimulate co-operation and synergy.

The European Platform was established in summer 1997, as a result of the European Conference on Conflict Prevention in February 1997, where the Amsterdam Appeal was adopted. The Amsterdam Appeal presented the terms for an effective EU approach to preventing conflict and outlined key advocacy issues for NGOs. It stressed the need for participation by a range of actors, including NGOs, and urged coalition building between different

NGOs and with national governments and European institutions.

The Steering Group of the European Platform is composed of representatives of several national networks or important NGOs from different countries. It functions as an advisory group to the European Centre, the Platform's secretariat. Once a year, the Steering Group and the international Board of the European Centre have a joint meeting.

The members of the Steering Group are:

- **Barbara Müller**, German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management

The German Platform is committed to the reduction of violence and peace promotion. The main goal of the network is to mutually support and strengthen participants' peace building activities. Some of the network's important commitments are exchange of information; attracting support among the general public; and widening the constituency for peace building.

- **Paul Eavis**, Saferworld, London, United Kingdom

An independent research and advocacy group. It is committed to alerting governments and educating the public about the need for more effective approaches to tackling and preventing armed confrontations around the globe.

- **Jean Freymond**, Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiation (Casin), Geneva, Switzerland. Casin aims to assist negotiators-diplomats, (inter)national civil servants, business executives, representatives of NGOs and others to develop new understanding, attitudes and techniques for managing the increasingly complex and inter-linked issues on the international agenda.

- **Jos de la Haye**, Field Diplomacy Initiative, Belgium
The Field Diplomacy Initiative (FDI) is working towards sustainable peace based on the belief that fieldwork is essential for peace building, and the involvement of people in the peace process is of vital importance. It strives towards a more cost-effective peace policy and greater accountability from policy makers, and questions current fragmented, piecemeal approaches to peace building and conflict resolution.

- **Enno Hommes**, European Centre for Conflict Prevention, Utrecht, the Netherlands

A Dutch foundation which hosts the secretariat of the European Platform. It facilitates, initiates and coordinates activities of the European Platform and regularly consults with the Steering Group. The European Centre also develops activities in the Netherlands.

- **Eugenia Piza Lopez**, International Alert, London
International Alert devises non-governmental bridge-building initiatives to unite people divided by internal conflict. It seeks to transform violent conflict into constructive dialogue and negotiation. Working with all parties, including government and opposition groups.

- **Sandra Melone**, European Centre for Common Ground, Brussels, Belgium
Established in Brussels in 1995, works in partnership with Search for Common Ground, based in Washington DC. Both organisations share a vision of transforming adversarial approaches toward co-operative solutions.

- **Anne Palm**, Katu Citizens' Security Council, Helsinki, Finland

KATU, the Finnish conflict prevention platform, is an open network combining people interested in conflict prevention from different kinds of organisations, such as NGOs engaged in development co-operation or humanitarian assistance and those active in international issues.

- **Valery Tishkov**, Centre for the Study and Management of Conflict (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences), Moscow, Russia

Focused on the analytical and applied study of ethnicity, nationalism and ethnic conflicts in multi-ethnic states undergoing socio-economic and political transition from totalitarian to democratic societies.

ACTIVITIES

1 Networking

Creating networks and improving coordination are among the major challenges in the world of conflict resolution and peace building today. Interdisciplinary networks and forums, connecting academics, civil servants and practitioners are helpful to share experiences and views from a different angle. For this reason, the European Platform was established, as an open network of organisations working in the field of the prevention and/or resolution of violent conflicts in the international arena.

Coherence and integrative approach: these words seem to appear in almost every policy paper and communiqué written by for example the UN, G8 or EU, and the NGO community. The reason for this is that more and more people and organisations - and not only governmental, but also non-governmental organisations - have become involved in conflict prevention or peace-building activities. At the same time, the field remains quite dispersed. In order to avoid duplication of activities, or to identify gaps in the field, the necessity of improving information sharing and co-operation in the area of conflict resolution and peace building has become increasingly evident. The obvious instrument for this is *networking*.

As early as 1997 this fact was recognised at a large international NGO conference on conflict prevention in the Netherlands. As a follow-up to the conference, the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation was created 'to

facilitate the exchange of information and experience among participating organisations, as well as to stimulate co-operation and synergy.' Over the last few years, national platforms have been established in for example Finland (Citizen's Security Council, Katu), Germany (German Platform for the Peaceful Management of Conflicts), Canada (Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee) and Ireland (Irish Peace and Reconciliation Platform).

Besides networking between NGOs, the dialogue between national governmental and non-governmental actors is crucial. Different countries have established more or less institutionalised co-operation mechanisms such as national centres, platforms or forums bringing together the different actors engaged in the field. Two examples of institutionalised dialogue between the government and the NGO community are the Swiss Centre for Peacebuilding and FriEnt in Germany.



The Steering Group of the European Platform from left to right: Sandra Melone, Valery Tishkov, Jean Freymond, Anne Palm, Jos de la Haye, Tobias Debiel, Martin Honeywell, Paul Eavis

At both the conferences Gripsholm II in Sweden, and Towards Better Peacebuilding Practice in the Netherlands, the European Platform organised workshops to discuss lessons learned in networking between NGOs and between NGOs and governments. A follow-up meeting was planned for March 2002 as preparation for a larger meeting on networking in fall 2002. The meeting in fall 2002 will focus on networking between networks based in the South and in the North.

Summary of Soesterberg Working Group

Lessons on national and regional platforms

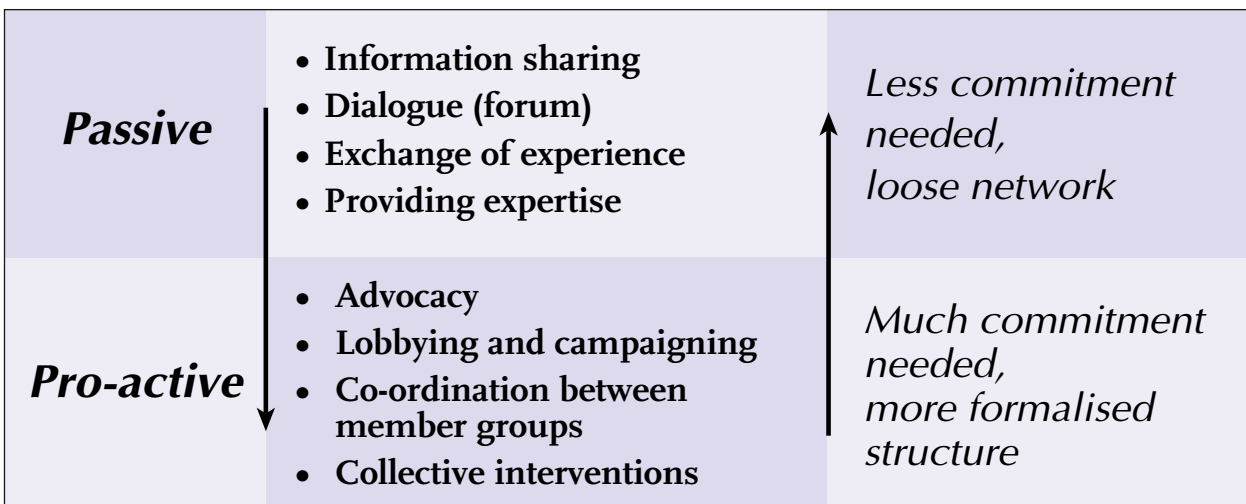
- Differentiation between networks is important (national, regional, international, North, South, etc.)
- Conflict resolution / peace-building networks are still weak
- Networking allows for information sharing, joint learning, synergies etc.
- Networking is also a methodology in itself for peace-building activities
- It is difficult to bring together ‘peace NGOs’ and ‘development NGOs’ (competition)
- Clear ground rules are necessary as well as a clear division of tasks between secretariat and member organisations of a network
- Networking has to be done around concrete issues.

National infrastructures for conflict prevention and peace building

- Co-operation between NGOs and governments differs in different countries
- Balance and independence between ‘state’ and ‘non-state’ is difficult
- Different cultures and procedures between government and NGOs
- Confidence building between government and NGOs as main priority
- Necessity to agree on terminology in a concrete way.

A model of networking:

FUNCTIONS OF NETWORKS



THE CONFLICT PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

One of the main instruments through which the European Platform for Conflict Prevention facilitates the sharing of knowledge and experience is its quarterly publication, the Conflict Prevention Newsletter. It is one of the few general newsletters on conflict prevention and resolution. Where other publications are typically targeted at, and limited by, their regional, thematic or group focus, the Conflict Prevention Newsletter aims to cover all, and serve the needs of a global community of organisations active in the field of conflict prevention and peace building. Its readers are to be found within governmental and NGO Conflict Management Units, in academic centres and grassroots organisations. The Newsletter currently has a

circulation of 3,000 worldwide. The Newsletter is also available on the Platform’s website and therefore readily available to a broad audience. Regular contributions to the Newsletter from prominent organisations such as International Alert, Saferworld and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (Accord) greatly enhance its international focus as well as its quality of information.

In 2001 thematic specials focusing on the Swedish Presidency of the EU and on Lessons Learned were included. For 2002 specials will pay attention to Central Asia, Media & Peace building, and the role of civil society and NGOs in Conflict Prevention and peace building and the linkage with the UN.

Information Clearinghouse

Large parts of the world are affected by wars and violent conflicts. Many of these conflicts have been analysed thoroughly and much is known about their causes and the reasons for their escalation and violence. Far less information is available on what has been done and what is currently being undertaken to de-escalate these conflicts.

Nor is sufficient information available about the people and institutions that have gained expertise in specific conflicts or sub-regions. Furthermore, there is a rising tide of complaint about the flagrant lack of communication and coordination between organisations which in one way or another are involved in conflict prevention and/or conflict management - local and international, governmental and non-governmental. This shows the need for a clearinghouse that facilitates the exchange of information and experience among participating organisations and stimulates co-operation and synergy.

SEARCHING FOR PEACE

The majority of the ECCP's activities are co-ordinated around the Searching for Peace programme. This programme is, in essence and spirit, global in outlook with an encompassing view of civil society activities in peace building and conflict transformation. The programme is divided along parallel geographic areas. The areas covered so far are Africa, Europe & Eurasia, and Asia & the Pacific. As the Searching for Peace programme has globalised and broadened, our contacts and network have correspondingly expanded to support our activities.

The first objective of the Searching for Peace programme and publications is to provide basic information on who does what, including hundreds of organisations, as well as important publications, resources, contacts, websites, and databases. The second objective is of a more evaluative nature. The surveys of the violent conflicts offer insights into the varying approaches used in conflict prevention and peace building in different situations. This should be helpful for organisations to better attune and harmonise their activities and work together in order to develop more effective policies. The third objective is to give a voice to local NGOs. The potential of these organisations to act as intermediaries between civil society in the conflict areas and international organisations should be taken into account much more than is normally the case. The fourth objective is to act as a bridge between NGOs and networks from different regions, academic institutions, and international organisations such as the OSCE. The Programme uses a regional approach in the different regional projects, to underscore the international context of situations and the possible spill over effects such as the flow

of refugees, illicit trade of arms and transit of armed forces across borders.

As the Searching for Peace programme has developed, the ECCP's focus was inevitably drawn toward the time-consuming activities surrounding the publications, which are a culmination of research, networking and information exchange. As the programme has matured, and particularly since the end of 2001, this has involved a re-orientation of approach. New ways are being sought to better serve, and gain the participation of, local civil society actors; and to strengthen links between our Searching for Peace activities and other lobbying, advocacy, information sharing and policy-development work.

Thus the programme's objectives remain the same, but in 2002 our activities and hence results, will be broader in scope. The ECCP's central formula is unaltered, so that basic information on which organisations are doing what, and on who are the key resources and contacts continues, as does research into methods of conflict transformation. In addition, greater attention is being given to providing a voice to local and regional NGOs, and on co-operating with local actors, and in acting as a bridge between NGOs, networks, academic institutions and resource people in the North and in the South.

Africa

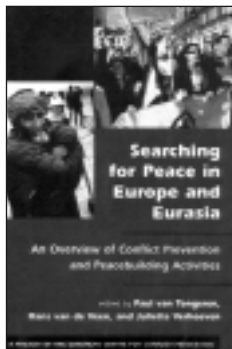
In October 1999, the publication Searching for Peace in Africa was finalised, in co-operation with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD, South Africa). It presents an overview of conflict prevention and management activities of local and international organisations in conflict areas in Africa. Comments, suggestions and news from readers are welcome and are incorporated in the updates, if relevant.

Activities in 2001

- The book is used in several universities, including the MA Programme in Peace Studies at Bradford University, and in training programmes run by Unitar for senior diplomats in Africa.
- A start was made on developing a follow-up project during a seminar in Accra, Ghana, where some initial ideas were discussed. A more concrete proposal will be developed in the year 2002.
- The Conflict Prevention Newsletter and Conflict Trends, the magazine of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, exchange articles regularly.

Europe & Eurasia

Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia is a three-year project, aiming to fill in the gaps in information about conflict prevention and peace-building activities in violent conflicts in Europe, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia and to contribute to the discussion about effective measures for conflict prevention. In close co-operation with several academics and practitioners, NGOs which are members of the European Platform as well as local organisations, several



meetings were organised and a book has been finalised with concise information about the background of conflicts and conflict prevention and peace building initiatives, prospects and recommendations as well as a directory of more than 400 organisations working in this field in these regions.

The overall objective of the Searching for Peace programme - to contribute peacefully to the transformation of violent conflicts - is even more

crucial after the September 11 events. The causes and background of violent conflicts should be better understood. Long-term involvement in peace building and the transformation of violent conflicts is needed, even after peace agreements are signed and the international media have left the scene. At the same time it is even more important today than before to dedicate our attention to lesser-known violent conflicts, such as in the Ferghana Valley and Georgia/Abchazia.

In this project close co-operation with numerous organisations throughout the regions is, necessary and highly important. Most of the texts are written by experts closely involved in working for peace in specific regions. The directory of organisations is compiled by key organisations in the different regions to ensure the inclusion of those organisations that are not well known internationally. Furthermore these organisations provided crucial feedback to the whole project and publication. Collaborating partners are the Center for Conflict Management in Almaty, the Center for Nonviolent Action in Sarajevo, and the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation in Tblisi. Several organisations provided feedback to the drafts texts and participated at the different seminars organised in this project (Bonn, July 2000; London, December 2000; Sarajevo, April 2001; Soesterberg, May 2001; Almaty, 2001). Other organisations instrumental in this project are The Forum (Pristhina), Search for Common Ground in Macedonia (Skopje), Conciliation Resources (London), International Alert (London), Group Most (Belgrade), International Crisis Group (Brussels and Bishkek), INCORE (Derry/Londonderry), Berghof Research Center for Constructive Management of Conflicts (Berlin), Institute for Regional Studies (Bishkek), Center for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights (Osijek) and the European Movement in Serbia (Belgrade). The number of contacts in the

Quote from Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia

The war in Croatia was comparatively short but fierce. It took several years following the climax of the conflict before a post-conflict normalisation and reconciliation process could begin - the Dayton peace agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the peace agreement with local Serbs on peaceful integration of Eastern Slovenia. Croatian society is still facing difficulties related to the transition from communism to a pluriform democracy, and to unresolved post-war issues including the prosecution of war criminals, co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the return of Serb refugees and, the protection of minority rights, and trust-building and reconciliation.



Ms Elena Sadovskaya from the Center for Conflict Management at the seminar in Almaty, November 28

European Platform is increased enormously and more organisations from these regions are involved in other initiatives and projects of the Platform.

Activities in 2001

- In April a regional seminar was organised in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, that brought together representatives of some thirty NGOs from the Balkans. At this meeting draft texts of the surveys on Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia were discussed to ensure inclusiveness and a certain balance of information. The second aim of the seminar was to stimulate information sharing about the lessons learned by NGOs in peace building and to facilitate networking in a region that is still at a crossroads.
- In November a seminar was organised in Almaty, Kazakhstan, together with the Centre for Conflict Management. Because of the changing security context in Central Asia after September 11, this seminar was marked a crucial step in reviewing the draft texts for the publication on this region with local experts and practitioners.

Almost thirty participants from all five Central Asian republics came together to give the needed local perspectives to the analysis of the conflicts and prospects for effective conflict prevention and peace building. Several issues such as regional networking and co-operation, how to improve capacity building for NGOs working for peace, relations with donor organisations and international NGOs, and interaction with decision makers at state level, were discussed.

Activities in 2002 and beyond

- In February 2002 *Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia - An overview of conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities*, edited by Paul van Tongeren, Hans van de Veen and Juliette Verhoeven, was published by Lynne Rienner Publishers. This book of 832 pages was widely distributed within the network of the European Platform, organisations in the regions, academic institutions, and relevant policy makers at European governments and international organisations such as the Organisations for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Union, and the United Nations.
- In March 2002 an expert meeting and a large public conference was organised in The Hague together with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 'Conflict Prevention in Central Asia and the role of the OSCE'. At the expert meeting policy recommendations were formulated for the Dutch government that will assume the chair of the OSCE in 2003. The book *Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia* was officially launched at the public meeting and presented to the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Jozias van Aartsen. The report of the meetings including a comprehensive summary of findings and priorities and guidelines for the OSCE was published in May 2002. Furthermore a special on conflict prevention in Central Asia was

Quote from *Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia*

Dagestan is an autonomous republic within the Russian Federation populated by over thirty distinct ethnic groups. Intergroup competition for power and resources makes conflict prevention the main pre-occupation of the authorities. The multitude of different but interrelated conflicts constitutes the main constraint to conflict resolution. Spill over of instability from neighbouring Chechnya, proliferation of radical Islamism, and violent crime contribute to the precarious security situation. While the involvement of international NGOs has been modest, Dagestani and Russian authorities have managed to sustain a fragile peace. Still, issues related to the conflicts remain unresolved and the regional security setting adversely affects peace prospects.

Quote from Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia

The borders of the three countries in the Ferghana Valley were artificially drawn between 1924 and 1936 by the Soviet authorities in Moscow, with Tajiks, Uzbeks, and Kyrgyz living on all sides. This is one of at least six major sources of present tensions in the valley. Most international attention focuses on the threat of Islamic extremism. However, official attempts at conflict management through repressive measures and crackdowns against Islamic groups and civil society organisations are fuelling rather than dampening people's anger and frustration. Effective conflict prevention might still push the Ferghana Valley away from the precipice to which it is now heading.

published in the *Conflict Prevention Newsletter* of the European Platform.

- In summer 2002 the book will be available at the new website of the European Platform with hyperlinks to the organisations mentioned in the directory.
- A regional desk will be developed at the European Centre to continue the stimulation of information sharing and networking in these regions and with the European Platform. Furthermore efforts will be made to translate the publication into other languages such as Russian. Also information will be collected to update the surveys of conflict prevention and peace-building activities on the website (planned for 2003).

Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia is financially supported by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the Netherlands, Department of International Relations (DfID) of the UK, and the Karl Popper Foundation, Switzerland.

Asia & the Pacific

The Asia & Pacific project will result in two published reviews of numerous conflicts and organisations in the region over the next two years. In 2001 work toward the first edition was substantially completed. This focused on Central & South Asia (to be released in July 2002). In addition, research began on Southeast and East Asia & the Pacific (this publication is due for release in July 2003). The publications will be followed up with policy seminars in both the regions and in Europe, which will aim to gather and apply lessons learned and formulate policy recommendations for governments, inter-governmental organisations and NGOs.

The first publication, *Searching for Peace in Central Asia & South Asia* contains surveys of 15 violent conflicts in these regions. Regional context chapters address issues including resources, religion and

border conflicts, and policy recommendations chapters and introductory chapters include positive stories from the region, lessons learned, and analyses of the events of September 11 and its impact. Furthermore, the publication provides a directory of some 180 organisations working in the conflict prevention and peace-building field.

Many of the conflicts in the region are the result of clashes between dominant ethnic majorities and underprivileged minorities: urban, rural and 'tribal'. Prior to the war in Afghanistan, there was relatively little interference from outside 'peace-seekers' in Asia, either on the (supra) national or NGO-level. In part this can be attributed to the political characteristics of many of the conflicts, which are viewed as 'internal' affairs by Asian states. On the other hand, in several countries, many initiatives have been undertaken at the local and national levels, especially through unofficial dialogues. The impact of September 11 will possibly influence this phenomenon in some countries, mostly in Central Asia, but other countries, like Nepal and Sri Lanka may be less affected.

Activities in 2001

- Research was on-going into the different conflict issues, key resources, related publications, reports and web sites. An inventory of organisations and resource persons working in and on the conflict areas was regularly updated. Most of these organisations and resource persons were contacted and invited to provide information, comments and suggestions, and in some cases co-operate closely.
- In May 2001, preparatory seminars were held in New Delhi, India and Colombo, Sri Lanka, where draft texts and lessons learned were discussed. The seminars were organised with our key partners in India: the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies and the International Centre for Peace Initiatives. The participants commented on the texts and discussed with the

authors possible recommendations, suggestions, omissions, and additional information. The purpose was to ensure that the articles and surveys are as impartial, balanced and comprehensive as possible.

- In November 2001 we focused on the preparatory seminar in Almaty, Kazakhstan. (see also the Europe and Eurasia section).
- Draft texts of surveys and articles were sent to resource persons, and the final texts were written by incorporating comments and suggestions made by them.
- In December 2001 to January 2002, the manuscript was finalised for the first publication on Central & South Asia and sent to our publisher Lynne Rienner. The publication will be available in print in July 2002.
- In December 2001, ECCP welcomed two new staff members who joined the project.

The ECCP's work on Searching for Peace in Asia & the Pacific thus broadened in three ways toward the end of 2001. Firstly geographically, from working solely on South Asia, research and contacts were developed in relation to East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Secondly, new ways were explored for improving the support of peace-building activities in Asia & the Pacific. Thirdly, two new staff joined the project.

The Searching for Peace in Asia & the Pacific

project involves close co-operation between the European Centre and academic institutions, networks and NGOs in Asia as well as in other regions. The most active partners involved are the International Centre for Peace Initiatives, India; the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, India; the Center for Conflict Management, Kazakhstan; Regional Centre for Security Studies, and the Inter-religious Peace Foundation, Sri Lanka; Japan Centre for Preventive Diplomacy, Japan; Gaston Z. Ortigas Institute, the Philippines.

The Searching for Peace in Asia & the Pacific project is funded by the Dutch and Canadian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Department of International Relations DfID (UK) and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Fundraising for the last phase of the project is still ongoing.

The Middle East & North Africa

Preparations to develop this project started in 2001. Initial research about the main violent conflicts was undertaken, as well as the identification of key organisations working for peace in the region. Due to the difficult political situation in the Middle East the planned preparatory seminar in the region was postponed to the second half of 2002.

This project is partly financially supported by the United States Institute of Peace and Cordaid Netherlands.

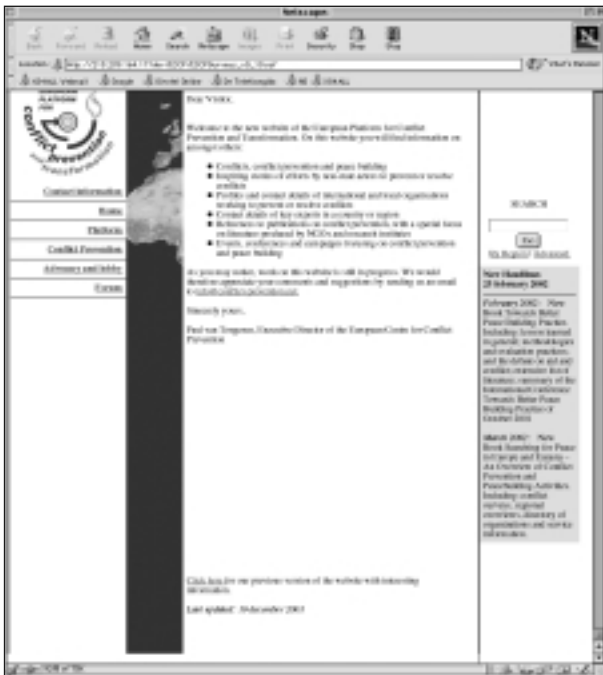
INFORMATION CENTRE

The European Platform's information centre maintains a large collection of material produced by organisations around the world involved in conflict prevention. Its focus is on the unpublished and unpublicised 'grey literature' produced by NGOs, including reports on research and field activities, conference papers, policy briefings, frameworks for action and annual reports. This enables the circulation of valuable information which is unavailable from standard sources such as publishers, bookshops, and libraries. A database catalogue, 'Cardbox for Windows' ensures easy access to the documents, strengthening support of NGO activity from other organisations and stimulating general interest in conflict prevention. Current work to make the database accessible through the Internet will improve this service even further. By linking relevant information with bibliographic listings of 'grey literature,' alongside

details of where the material can be obtained, the information centre aims to make the Internet a more effective tool for organisations working in the field of conflict prevention.

WEBSITE

In three years time, www.euconflict.org has become one of the major sources of information on conflicts and conflict prevention in the international arena. This is reflected in the increase from an average of 20,000 hits per month in 1998 to an average of 100,000 hits per month in 2001. As a consequence of the expanding network of the European Platform and the amount of information on conflicts and conflict-prevention activities, especially due to the Searching for Peace Programme and Lessons Learned Programme, the structure of the website had to be revised. For this reason, the ECCP started the project: www.conflict-prevention.net: a new website of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation.



Priority within this project was the development of databases in order to improve the accessibility of the information on the website. The goal of the website is to provide a *virtual portal* for information on all violent conflicts, and on conflict prevention and peace-building activities around the world.

On www.conflict-prevention.net information can be found about:

- Conflicts, conflict prevention and peace building
- Inspiring stories of efforts by non-state actors to prevent or resolve conflicts
- Profiles and contact details of international and local organisations working to prevent or resolve conflicts
- Contact details of key experts in a country or region
- References to publications on conflict prevention, with a special focus on literature produced by NGOs and research institutes
- Events, conferences and campaigns focusing on conflict prevention and peace building.

Work on the website is still in progress. In 2002 fundraising will continue for the second and third phase of the development of the website. In phase 2 the bibliographic database with references to publications of our collection is on the agenda.

For the third phase ‘communication’ with and within the European Platform is the key issue. The Centre will improve the notice board, the calendar of events, vacancies, etc. on the Platform’s website. The idea is that visitors can add information themselves.

TOWARDS BETTER PEACEBUILDING PRACTICE

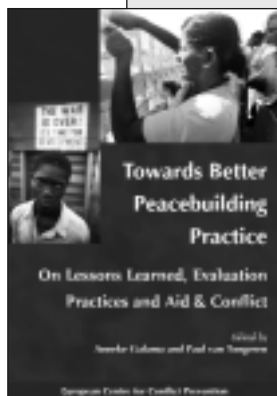
The field of conflict prevention and peace building has been challenged by governments, donor agencies and their own organisation as well as, to develop a ‘science of conflict resolution’. The field needs to be able to say *what* it is they know and *why* they know it. This implies defining success and failure and formulating methodologies to grasp this knowledge. In this respect, evaluation and learning practice is being stimulated and impact assessment tools are being developed in order to increase the understanding on the outcomes of conflict-prevention activities. These reflections have resulted in so-called Lessons Learned and Best Practices. However, because the issues of peace and conflict are everything but well-defined concepts, as many different actors play part and several approaches and policies exist, designing an appropriately and effective evaluation methodology is extremely difficult.

The overall objective of the project, initiated by the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation in 2000, is to contribute to the improvement of evaluation and impact assessment practices on conflict prevention and peace-building activities. The following set of goals was identified:

- to *stimulate* and *broaden* the debate between key-actors, in particular governments, IGOs, development-, humanitarian- and peace-building NGOs;
- to *share* experiences and questions and to *illustrate* this debate with as many inputs on specific issues and from many conflict regions as possible;
- to *integrate* different programmes and projects on evaluations and lessons learned of the key-actors;
- to facilitate *networking*, internationally and especially with conflict regions on these issues;
- to *disseminate* key lessons learned and best practices by working documents and the conference report.

Activities in 2001

- Expert Meeting in Londonderry, Northern



To mark the 40th anniversary of Training Centre Kontakt der Kontinenten, in Soesterberg, the Netherlands two conferences were organised. A national conference on October 27 and the international gathering on October 24-26. At the international conference more than 300 people participated from over 50 different countries. Members of both peace building and conflict resolution organisations as well as development and humanitarian agencies were present. Also some governmental agencies were represented. There was a good exchange of information and experiences, both in the working groups as well as in the plenary sessions. The working groups were organized and facilitated both by members of the Platform as well as new contacts. During the working groups' sessions learning practices were shared and discussed. Participants also tried to formulate lessons they learned in their projects and policies and to link them up with other areas and issues. Also, an informal debate was organised on the consequences of the events of September 11 for our field. Some colleagues shared openly the doubts they have on the actual impact of the work of peace builders if all their efforts are so

easily undermined. However, also hope was raised as the events also showed moreover the importance of other lines of thoughts and actions, which can and should be formulated by the field of peace builders.

This conference was unique as it gathered a large number of practitioners, all coming from different areas but focusing on the same set of issues: what have we learned and achieved so far and how do we know and moreover, how do we translate this knowledge into future practice? The conference did not lead to clear-cut conclusions or recommendations. It was the process of interaction, debate and reflection that gave the added value to this event. The publication, as described in this overview, will further facilitate the process that started in Soesterberg.

Ireland, February 1-4, 2001, where some 35 experts made a first attempt to construct a framework for the Lessons Learned-project as such. After this meeting a Reference Group was formed who further discussed the main issues and areas the project should focus on.

- A special workshop on Lessons Learned during a conference 'Promoting the Prevention of Violent Conflict and Peacebuilding by Interaction between State Actors and Voluntary Organisations'. This event was organised together with Swedish NGOs and with support of the Swedish, Dutch and German governments in May in Sweden. Many government representatives were present.
- Regional Seminars on Lessons Learned have been organised in Sarajevo, Colombo, New Delhi, Accra and Almaty. At these meetings regional experts were invited to share their perspectives and ideas on the specifics of their region and type of conflict they are dealing with. The relation between western, more academic, analysis versus the local view and perspectives were discussed.
- The International conference 'Towards better peacebuilding practice' October 24-26, in Soesterberg, the Netherlands was the first major attempt to gather the lessons learned in peace building and conflict prevention so far and gave

fieldworkers, academics and policymakers the opportunity to gain further knowledge on how to evaluate their work, how to measure its impact and to implement their lessons learned.

- Following the International Conference, a National Conference was organised as well, focusing on a Dutch audience.
- Publication of *Towards Better Peacebuilding Practice: on lessons learned, evaluation practices and aid & conflict*. Next to the focus on these three items, the book contains some interesting papers written and compiled by NGOs who organised working group sessions at the International Conference. The book serves as a source of information and can be used as a reference guide into the practice of evaluation and learning within organisations, focusing on both peace building and development issues.

Concluding remarks

One of the aims of the project on lessons learned is to facilitate organisations in their learning practices. This has been done through regional seminars in different parts of the world, organizing the conference in October 2001 and compiling the publication described above. The ECCP would like to continue facilitating the field of conflict prevention and peace building. Therefore, new ideas and follow-up projects are being developed.

3 Lobby & advocacy

There is an urgent need to build understanding amongst practitioners, the public as well as the EU and its institutions, of the role that governments, development organisations, indigenous associations, peace movements and religious bodies can play in reducing the potential for violent conflict, rebuilding wartorn societies and in preventing future violence.

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

In 2001, the Swedes and the Belgians held the Presidency of the European Union. Since Sweden has traditionally played a leading role in conflict prevention in the past, the Swedish Presidency was seen as a vital opportunity to be more concrete and practical about measures to increase the EU's capacity to prevent violent conflicts.

Afterwards we can conclude, that indeed a great deal was achieved under these Presidencies, in terms of developing a policy framework in the field of conflict prevention for the EU. *The EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts* (June 2001), the *Commission Communication on Conflict Prevention* (April 2001) and the *Cotonou Agreement* on trade and aid offer, respectively, a strategic outline, concrete recommendations for reform and a commitment to placing conflict prevention and political dialogue at the heart of co-ordinated, cohesive policy making.

Gripsholm-II

Like their government, Swedish NGOs have also traditionally played a leading role in conflict prevention. The Peace Team Forum (PTF) is a network of approximately forty Swedish organisations with the aim to develop a capacity for preventing violence, transforming conflicts and building peace and thereby contributing to non-military structures for peace and security. In September 1997 in Mariefred, the Peace Team Forum, in co-operation with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organised an international conference on 'Government-NGO Relations in Preventing Violence, Transforming Conflict and Building Peace' - Gripsholm I. Over 30 NGOs, intergovernmental organisations and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended. Following this success, during the Swedish Presidency, the Peace Team Forum and the European Platform, in close co-operation with International Alert and Saferworld organised Gripsholm II, 'Promoting the

Prevention of Violent Conflict and Building Peace by Interaction between State actors and Voluntary organisations'.

From May 2 to 4, practitioners, academics, representatives from several governments and representatives from the EU, gathered in the Swedish Red Cross Educational and Training Centre in Mariefred, near the castle of Gripsholm. Gripsholm II's aim was to provide practical examples of conflict prevention efforts. The key aims of the conference were: shifting the EU's present focus on crisis management to conflict prevention; increasing collaboration and a rational division of labour between governments and civil society in conflict prevention (including highlighting the significant role played by women in peace building); developing and implementing conflict prevention and peace-building policies; and education and training. Participants came from across Europe including many countries with less of a tradition in conflict prevention to establish more effective networks and coalitions for progress.

The following issues were discussed in four working groups: lessons learned; the role of the European Union in conflict prevention; civilian peace services; and national infrastructures for conflict prevention and peace building. The recommendations of the conference were presented to Lena Hjelm-Wallén, deputy prime minister of Sweden, representing the Swedish Presidency of the EU. The formula of the conference, facilitating open dialogue and stimulating the search for new areas of co-operation between state and non-state actors, was welcomed very much by all participants. The necessity in all countries of establishing an ongoing dialogue between state actors and relevant voluntary organisations (VOs/NGOs) dealing with the complex subject of prevention of violent conflicts was one of the central conclusions of the conference. This is also recognised in 'The EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict', which was endorsed by the Göteborg European Council of June 2001.

KEY CONTACTS

Europe

Austria

- ASPR/Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution

Belgium

- Centre for Peace Research, University of Leuven
- Centre for the Study of the Great Lakes Region
- ECCG/European Centre for Common Ground
- FDI/Field Diplomacy Initiative
- GRIP/Groupe de Recherche et d'Information sur la Paix et la Sécurité
- NGO Consultation on Conflict Prevention
- Pax Christi Flanders

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Center for Nonviolent Action

Croatia

- Anti-War Campaign Croatia
- Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights in Osijek

Czech Republic

- Czech Helsinki Committee

Denmark

- COPRI/Copenhagen Peace Research Institute
- Danish Centre for Conflict Resolution
- Danish Centre for Human Rights
- Danish UN Association
- ENCORE/European Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

Finland

- KATU-Citizen's Security Council
- Tampere Peace Research Institute

France

- Commission Coopération et Développement, Groupe Urgence, Réhabilitation et Développement (URD)
- Coordination Sud
- Survie

Georgia

- International Center on Conflict & Negotiation

Germany

- Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management

- BICC/Bonn International Center for Conversion
- SEF/Development and Peace Foundation
- Evangelische Akademie Loccum
- FriEnt
- German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management

Greece

- Andreas G. Papandreou Foundation
- ELIAMEP/Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy
- KEGME/Mediterranean Women's Study Center

Ireland

- Co-operation Ireland
- Glencree Centre for Reconciliation
- GOAL
- Irish Peace and Reconciliation Platform
- Irish Peace Institute
- Trocaire

Italy

- Community of St. Egidio
- International Training Programme for Conflict Management
- Italian Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation
- Movimondo

Kosovo

- The Forum

Latvia

- Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies

Luxembourg

- Cercle de Coopération des ONGD

Macedonia

- Search for Common Ground in Macedonia
- International Centre for Preventive Action and Conflict Resolution

Montenegro

- Nansen Dialogue Center

Netherlands

- BBO
- Centre for Conflict Studies, Utrecht University
- Clingendael, Netherlands Institute of International Relations
- Cordaid
- European Centre for Conflict Prevention
- IKV/Interchurch Peace Council

- Kontakt der Kontinenten
- NEAG
- Novib / Oxfam Netherlands
- Pax Christi Netherlands
- PIOOM
- The Network University

Norway

- Centre for Conflict Management
- CMI/Christian Michelsen Institute
- PRIO/International Peace Research Institute, Oslo
- Norwegian Church Aid
- NPA/Norwegian People's Aid

Poland

- Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Portugal

- OIKOS

Russian Federation

- EAWARN/Center for the Study and Management of Conflict, Russian Academy of Sciences

Serbia

- Group Most, Belgrade
- The European Movement in Serbia

Spain

- CIP/Peace Research Center
- ICESB, University of Barcelona
- Gernika Gogoratuz Peace Research Centre

Sweden

- Christian Council of Churches
- Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University
- LPI/Life & Peace Institute
- Peace Team Forum
- Swedish Red Cross
- SIPRI/Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
- TFF/Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research

Switzerland

- CASIN/Center for Applied Studies in International Negotiations
- CIMERA
- Demain l'Afrique
- KOFF/Peacebuilding Center/Swisspeace
- Swiss Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation
- Swisspeace
- WSP/War Torn Societies Project

Turkey

- TOSAM/Foundation for the Research of Societal Problems

United Kingdom

- African Rights
- ACORD/Agency for Co-operation and Research in Development
- Agenda for Reconciliation /Initiatives of Change
- Alliances for Africa
- Centre for Conflict Resolution, Bradford University
- CODEP/Conflict, Development and Peace Network
- CR/Conciliation Resources
- INCORE/Initiative in Conflict Resolution & Ethnicity
- International Alert
- Mediation Network of Northern Ireland
- MRG/Minority Rights Group
- Oxfam
- Oxford Research Group
- RTC/Responding to Conflict
- Saferworld

European Networks

- EPLO/European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
- European Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution
- Helsinki Citizen's Assembly
- ISIS/International Security Information Service, Europe
- NGDO Liaison Committee
- North-South Centre
- Quaker Council for European Affairs
- Quaker Peace and Service
- VOICE/Voluntary Organisations in Co-operation in Emergencies

International Networks and NGOs

- Amnesty International, EU-Association
- The Coexistence Initiative
- Global Action To Prevent War
- FEWER, Forum on Early Warning and Early Response
- Hague Appeal for Peace
- Human Rights Watch
- IANSA/International Action Network on Small Arms
- IDEA/Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
- ICG/International Crisis Group
- IFOR/International Fellowship of Reconciliation
- IPRA/International Peace Research

Association, Study Group on Internal Conflicts

- MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières
- Pax Christi International
- PBI/Peace Brigades International
- Red Cross (Federation/ICRC)
- UNESCO Culture of Peace Program
- UNPO/Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation

Key contacts outside Europe

Australia

- CRN/Conflict Resolution Network

Canada

- Canadem/Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights
- CIIAN/Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation
- CPCC/Canadian Peacebuilding Co-ordination Committee
- IMPACS/Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society

Costa Rica

- The Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress

Ghana

- WANEP/West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

India

- Centre for Peace Studies/South Asian Centre for Strategic Studies
- IPCS/Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies
- International Centre for Peace Initiatives
- Oxfam India

Indonesia

- Centre for Research and Intergroup Relations

Israel

- Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace
- B'TSELEM/The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories
- Ittijah Union of Arab Community Based Organisations
- SIKKUY

Japan

- JCPD/Japan Centre for Preventive Diplomacy
- JIIA/Japan Institute for International Affairs
- NIRA/National Institute for Research Advancement

Kazakhstan

- Center for Conflict Management

Kenya

- IRG/International Resource Group
- NCKK/ National Council of Churches Kenya
- Nairobi Peace Initiative

Kyrgyzstan

- Institute for Regional Studies
- Foundation for Tolerance International

Nigeria

- AAPW/Academic Associates Peace Works

Palestinian Territories

- LAW/The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment
- MIFTAH/The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy
- Panorama/The Palestinian Center for the Dissemination of Democracy and Community Development

Philippines

- Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute

South Africa

- ACCORD/African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
- Centre for Conflict Resolution

Sri Lanka

- Inter-Religious Peace Foundation

United States

- The Carter Center
- CRS/Catholic Relief Services
- CPA/Center for Preventive Action
- CDA/The Collaborative for Development Action
- CMG/Conflict Management Group
- CSIS/Center for Strategic and International Studies
- ICAR/Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University
- IMTD/Institute for Multi-track Diplomacy
- SFCG/Search for Common Ground
- Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice
- USIP/United States Institute for Peace



The European Centre is a Dutch foundation hosting the secretariat of the European Platform. It facilitates, initiates and co-ordinates activities of the Platform and regularly consults with its steering group. Furthermore, the Centre also has a role in fostering and initiating activities on conflict prevention in the Netherlands.

Foreword

TOWARDS A CLEARER STRUCTURE OF THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM AND ITS SECRETARIAT, THE EUROPEAN CENTRE.

In 2002 the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation, and its secretariat, the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, will have been in existence for five years. Apart from being a time for celebrating, it is also a time for looking back and reflecting. During nearly five years of chairing the board of the European Centre, I have seen the field of conflict prevention and peace building change a lot. In 1997 conflict prevention and peace building were quite unknown issues. Nowadays these issues are high on the agenda, and the role of NGOs is increasingly acknowledged.

The growing interest in the subject has also changed the nature of the discussions: at first we had a hard time convincing people that conflict prevention can actually work; now we have to prove *what* exactly works and in which context. The last few years saw the publication of many books on lessons learned and best practices, which proves that the field is 'growing out of its infancy' and is becoming more professionalised.

With the changing times, the role and function of the Platform and its secretariat, the Centre is also changing. The Board of the Centre decided not to wait and see, but to act proactively to this challenge. For this reason, professor Louk de la Rive Box was commissioned to "facilitate Board decision making with regard to the medium term strategy for the Centre". It was explicitly not a demand for an evaluation or a review of past performance, but an investigation into present issues and options regarding the future of the Centre and Platform.

In his final report to the Board, De la Rive Box concluded that: "*The Centre is increasingly respected as a convenor of agenda setting meetings, around specific issues of interest to European policy makers, entrepreneurs and civil society representatives. It could be funded from private, semi-public and public sources. Organisationally, the Centre needs to continue to strengthen the European character of its Board, clarify its relations with Eplu and Utrecht University, and redefine the relations with the Platform which might be transformed into a loosely structured information network.*"

Based on this report the Board decided the following:

- The description of tasks will be clarified: the European Centre serves and facilitates the broad field of conflict prevention and peace building.
- In this role, the Centre fulfils a number of supporting activities, amongst which is the secretariat of the European Platform and its function as a forum.
- The relation (and consequently the legitimisation) between the current activities of the Centre and the serving of the field will become clearer.
- For larger Platform activities such as Platform meetings, a rotating group of about three Platform organisations will be selected as organiser.
- The general board will be enlarged by including representatives of some of the national platforms/networks (Katu, German Platform, KOFF).



Enno Hommes

This will be my last article in an Annual Report of the European Platform and Centre as chair of the Board of the European Centre. In the five years that I chaired the Board of the European Centre, I witnessed from at close hand the creation and growth of the European Centre and Platform, which was, sometimes even to my surprise, going faster than expected. With the decisions of the board, based on the report from De La Rive Box, the European Centre has entered a new phase in its existence.

It enables the European Centre to continue doing the things that have proved their own worth and which are appreciated by many. At the same time, by seeking the niches (and gaps) in the field, and by refraining from picking up new tasks that are too ambitious and for which the Centre does not have the competence, the (chances of) competition with partners are minimised. I'm confident that the proposed steps will lead to a stronger profile of both the Centre and Platform.

By Enno Hommes
Chairman of the board of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention

Introduction

STAFF AND BOARD

The Staff in 2001

Executive director:

Paul van Tongeren

Searching for Peace Programme:

Annelies Heijmans, project co-ordinator Asia & the Pacific (from January 2002)

Monique Mekenkamp, project co-ordinator Africa and Asia

Nicola Simmonds, project officer Asia & the Pacific (from January 2002)

Juliette Verhoeven, project co-ordinator Europe and Middle East, People Building Peace

Mats Lundström, project officer until November 2002

Emmy Toonen, project assistant from March to June

Iris Wielders, project assistant.

Lessons Learned Project:

Anneke Galama, project officer

Lobby & Advocacy, Public Relations:

Guido de Graaf Bierbrauwer

Finance and Fundraising:

Kathleen Ward, co-ordinator (from December 2001)

Information specialists:

Esther Kloos

Pieter Schultz (from July 2001);

Office management:

Cora Bastiaansen

Education and Training projects:

Ada van der Linde (part time; in co-operation with Kontakt der Kontinenten)

Interns:

Renske Heemsker

The Board in 2001

In 2001 mr. Ton Waarts, executive director of the European Network on Street Children Worldwide (ENSCW) joined the board.

Professor Kevin Clements

Secretary general of International Alert, London, UK, former Director of the Institute for Conflict Analyses (ICAR), USA

Brigadier-General Henny J. van der Graaf (ret.)

Executive Director of the Centre for Arms Control and Verification Technology; former Member of the



The staff of the European Centre in 2001. From left to right: Monique Mekenkamp, Pieter Schultz, Esther Kloos, Iris Wielders, Cora Bastiaansen, Guido de Graaf Bierbrauwer, Kathleen Ward, Paul van Tongeren, Juliette Verhoeven, and Anneke Galama

United Nations Advisory Board
on Disarmament Matters

Professor Enno W. Hommes
(chairman)

Former Professor of Sociology at
the University of Twente, The
Netherlands; former Chairman
of the National Advisory Council
for Development Co-operation

Mr. Peter K.H. Meyer Swantée
(vice-chairman and treasurer)
Non-Executive Director of
Optimix - Asset Management;
Chairman of Health Net

Mr. Rienzie Perera
Director Research Unit of the
Life and Peace Institute,
Uppsala, Sweden.

Mr. Norbert Ropers
Director of Berghof Research Centre for
Constructive Conflict Management, Berlin,
Germany
Mrs. Bea Stolte-Van Empelen
Programme co-ordinator Dutch Interchurch Aid

Mr. Ton Waarts
Executive director of the European Network on
Street Children Worldwide (ENSCW), former
Director of the National Committee for
International Co-operation and Sustainable
Development (NCDO), the Netherlands



From left to right: Enno Hommes, Norbert Ropers, Rienzie Perera, Kevin Clements, Bea Stolte, Peter Meyer Swantée, and Paul van Tongeren

International representations of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention

The European Centre is represented through its executive director Paul van Tongeren in several other organisations, in executive boards or advisory councils.

- The ECCP played a leading role in establishing the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) in 2001. ECCP is now one of the 17 participating organisations and takes part in the Steering Committee.
- The ECCP participates in the board of directors of The Coexistence Initiative (TCI), which aims “to enhance the impact and effectiveness of efforts being undertaken internationally by individuals and organisations actively pursuing coexistence, tolerance and peace”. TCI is based in the USA.
- ECCP participates in the International Advisory Council of the Institute of Multi-Track Diplomacy (IMTD) in Washington. The mission of IMTD is to promote a systems approach to peace building and to facilitate the transformation of deep-rooted social conflict.
- At end last year ECCP was asked to join the International Council for Conflict Resolution of the Carter Center whose function will be to consult, advise, and, where appropriate, participate in the Carter Center’s conflict resolution initiatives. The Carter Center is based in Atlanta, USA.
- In the same period ECCP joined the International Advisory Council of the Agenda for Reconciliation, (AFR) a Programme of Initiatives of Change. AFR is based in UK and organises two weeks on Reconciliation every year in Caux (Switzerland) where a thousand people meet.

ACTIVITIES

1 Networking

Creating networks and improving coordination are among the major challenges in the world of conflict resolution and peace building today. Interdisciplinary networks and forums, connecting academics, civil servants and practitioners provide a useful vehicle for sharing experiences and views from different perspectives. For this reason, the European Platform was established, as an open network of organisations working in the field of the prevention and/or resolution of violent conflicts in the international arena.

REGULAR CONSULTATIONS

As a direct result of the roundtable conference on Conflict Prevention and Peace Building, organised in co-operation with the Netherlands Institute for International Relations 'Clingendael' in december 2000, this year saw the creation of regular consultations on conflict prevention at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim of these quarterly consultations is to have an exchange of information between NGOs and academic institutions with an interest in conflict prevention and peace building and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore it is meant to serve as a forum for a policy dialogue on conflict-prevention and peace building related issues, to improve the co-ordination between NGOs and the government and

to enhance the integrative and coherent use of a broad variety of conflict-prevention and peace building instruments.

In order not to limit the meetings to an exchange of information, for each session a specific theme is prepared. In 2001 the following issues were discussed:

- The state of affairs of the field in the Netherlands (in preparation for the governmental white paper on conflict prevention).
- Human Rights and conflict prevention.
- Small Arms and conflict prevention (in connection with the UN conference 'Illicit Trade in Small Arms And Light Weapons In All Its Aspects').

2 Awareness-raising

The initiatives of citizens all over the world aimed at preventing violence, resolving conflict, and reconciling parties that have been at war will inspire many people to invest in peace-building. Awareness-raising of the potential of conflict prevention and transformation strategies includes aiming to give insight into the varying approaches used in many parts of the world. This will enable organisations - local and international, governmental or non-governmental - to learn from each other's approaches and harmonise their activities with other efforts in order to be more effective.

A LINKAGE WITH THE UN

In June 2001 the Secretary General of the United Nations published a report on the *Prevention of Armed Conflict* (A/55/985 - S/2001/574). One paragraph of this report dealt with non-governmental organisations and civil society and recommended the organisation of "an international conference of local, national and international NGOs on their role in conflict prevention and future interaction with United Nations in this field" by NGOs with an interest in conflict prevention (recommendation 27).

The European Centre welcomes this recommendation and has submitted proposals to organise such a conference. Furthermore, in order to ensure a participatory process with equal input from different regions worldwide, the European Centre suggested inserting a preparatory process, consisting of six regional preparatory conferences and awareness raising campaigns in several countries.

Goal and aims

The overall goal of the conferences is to explore and promote the role of civil society and NGOs in the prevention of armed conflicts and peace building. A

second goal is to improve the interaction between different sectors, such as the UN, regional organisations, NGOs and civil society, in order to come to a more integrative and coherent approach towards conflict prevention and peace building. The process of the preparatory regional conferences, the awareness-raising campaigns, and the conference at the United Nations headquarters should finally result in an action programme, containing concrete proposals to support and enhance the role of civil society and NGOs, and to facilitate future interaction between the civil society and NGOs and the UN.

Key issues

The ECCP suggests selecting several key issues in which civil society and NGOs are involved (e.g. early warning, reconciliation, local issues and problems, and so on) and several key actors in this field (e.g. women, religious leaders, youth, NGOs in general, and so on).

Elements of the programme

After consultation with our partners and representatives of the UN, the ECCP feels the programme should consist of the following activities:

- Six preparatory regional conferences in all continents.
- Awareness raising activities in many countries.
- Documentaries of successful peace-building activities.
- Over 1,500 NGOs world-wide will be invited for a contribution.
- Research for working documents for the preparatory conferences and a final document and an action programme.
- A number of publications: a two volume directory of organisations world-wide active in the field of conflict prevention and peace building; inspiring stories of successful activities in this field; monographs on the specific issues and actors; an action programme.
- Closing conference at the United Nations offices in New York.

MEDIA AND PEACE BUILDING

The media is a double-edged sword. The media can be a powerful tool in peace building and conflict resolution by providing and sharing unbiased information, presenting diverse views and respecting human rights. However, media can also

be used as a terrible weapon of violence when messages of intolerance are propagated, or disinformation is distributed that manipulates public sentiment. Many advocates of conflict prevention are convinced that media can play a critical role in defusing tensions and forging peace. The role of media in peace building implies developing the formal institutions of professional journalism such as press, radio and television. The different tools that media can use in peacebuilding are for example drama, soap opera's and cartoons.

The objective of the Media and Peace-building project of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, Impacs (Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society) and the European Centre for Common Ground, is to assemble operational tools for media and peacebuilding projects, present those in a frame and disseminate the findings to a broad public. The project aims to address the gap in documentation, policy analysis, lessons learned and understanding of media and peacebuilding projects around the world. The findings will be presented in a systematic way that is useful to donors, policy makers, the media at large, NGOs and academics. Several projects such as Panos West Africa in Senegal, Internews in Indonesia and Search for Common Ground in Macedonia are covered in the publication, that also will contain a directory of relevant organisations working in this field. This will be published in summer 2002 and presented at an international seminar planned for fall 2002.

This project is financially supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PEOPLE BUILDING PEACE

"In this book the reader will find excellent examples of the very meaningful, often successful, initiatives taken by citizens of many countries, to resolve conflict, to prevent violence, and to reconcile parties that have been at war. The book will inspire others to do the same, even to go beyond these examples from the first decade of major citizen participation in foreign affairs." Johan Galtung, Director Transcend, a Peace and Development Network.

People Building Peace is an ongoing programme which aims to document positive stories of people working for peace around the globe. In May 1999 *People Building Peace: 35 Inspiring Stories from Around the World* was published in an effort to

provide positive stories as a counterbalance to the countless stories of violence.

The publication is available on the website and the number of hits that it has received suggests the value of this initiative. More than 8,000 hardcopies have been distributed or sold in two years.

As a follow up, the *Conflict Prevention Newsletter* regularly publishes articles on new initiatives that illustrate the important role civil society can play in peace building in different countries. These include accounts of a meeting organised by Pax Christi Flanders and Forum Civil Service, bringing together people from Kosovo and Northern Ireland to explore similarities and differences in conflict dynamics within these countries. Furthermore an article about the anti-violence campaign 'Boll Ma!' in Kosovo was published.

The book has been distributed at major international conferences such as the Agenda for Reconciliation conference in Switzerland in August 2001. It is also used in peace-building courses at training institutes such as Responding to Conflict, Unitar as well as universities such as Eastern Mennonite University, Bradford University and the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) at George Mason University, USA.

THE BALKANS

The return of displaced persons and refugees and peace building in the Balkans: Can we have one without the other?

To mark the 50th anniversary of the 1951 *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* the European Centre for Conflict Prevention organised, in co-operation with the Interchurch Peace Council (IKV) and National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCDO), two meetings on the relation between peace building in South-Eastern Europe and the return of displaced persons



and refugees. First an expert meeting was organised for a selected group of people representing the Dutch government, emergency aid organisations, development agencies, peace organisations, members of parliament, scholars and journalists, followed by a public debate focusing on the situation in Serbia, where still many tens of thousands of displaced persons from Kosovo and refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina are living under often bad circumstances.

In the past, there has been relatively little co-operation between the various agencies dealing with peace building and the return issues: emergency aid agencies, development agencies, peace and human rights organisations, national governments and international governmental organisations. Also the co-operation with local NGO's and self-help organisations of potential returnees did not always go smoothly. Only fairly recently, better models of consultation and co-operation have been developed. Clearly, an integrated approach is needed for both the peace-building process and the return of displaced persons en refugees.

Upon the basis of experiences gained by the partners in South Eastern Europe and the various Dutch organisations, the two meetings tried to answer the questions how the return of displaced persons and refugees can promote the process of peace building and democratisation; and how peace building and democratisation should be organised in order to promote the return of displaced persons and refugees.

UNIVERSITY CHAIR ON CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT
(Centre for Conflict Studies of Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

Since the 1960s and 1970s a tradition of studying issues of war and peace has developed at several Dutch universities. Departments of Polemology and Peace Studies have examined the political

contradictions and tensions consequent upon the Cold War, while institutions such as the Dutch Defence College have studied military and strategic threats and response mechanisms in a bipolar world of superpowers.

Several of these approaches lost their relevance in the post-Cold War period, where new forms of conflict and new challenges in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace building emerged.

At Utrecht University the Centre for Conflict Studies (CCS) was established in 1999 as a joint initiative of the University and the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP). The Meyer Swantée Foundation finances the Special Chair in Conflict Prevention and Conflict Management established at the CCS.

Underlying this initiative lay the insight that the study of contemporary conflict required new theoretical and analytical approaches and that interdisciplinary and policy-oriented programmes needed to be developed to cater for the military, political and humanitarian problems involved.

Prof. dr. ir. Georg Frerks was formally appointed as professor of Conflict Prevention and Conflict Management from January 1, 2002 and joined the team already working at the CCS comprising prof. dr. Duco Hellema, dr. Jolle Demmers and dr. Chris van der Borgh (academic staff), and Birthe Dhert and Gerard van der Ree (educational co-ordinators).

The Special Chair in Conflict Prevention and Conflict Management and the CCS as a whole deal with the analysis of the causes, dynamics and consequences of international and intrastate violent conflict. The different courses offered by the Special Chair and the CCS aim to increase the students' understanding of violent conflict by using an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on a variety of disciplines such as History, Political Science, Anthropology and International Law. Both the local dynamics of conflict (the role of political elites and warlords, nationalist myth-making, transitions to democracy, the role of the state, state collapse, governance, ethnicity, identity and economies of violence) are examined as well as the international response to conflict through diplomatic, military,

socio-economic and humanitarian interventions directed at conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction and peace building. Here, the Special Chair builds upon and also hopes to contribute to the work of, among others, the European Centre for Conflict Prevention.

Over the last year the CCS has offered eight courses given by the Special Chair funded by the Meyer Swantée Foundation, and by the permanent staff of the CCS as well as some guest lecturers.

Prof. Frerks took part in the 'Introduction to Conflict Studies' and designed a new course on 'Theories of Conflict' that was given together with Demmers and Van der Borgh in the period November-December 2001. The course attracted nearly forty students. In the course attention was paid to the question whether there is a distinction between 'old' and 'new wars' and what makes contemporary war different? State-centred approaches to current complex political emergencies were highlighted and contrasted with explanations focusing on greed and 'economies of violence'. The course lectures considered the issue of the construction and reconstruction of particularistic identities as one of the key determinants of inter-group violence.



Georg Frerks

There was also consideration of the role of development and other responses to conflict in resolving disputes and promoting peace.

Prof. Frerks also designed a course on 'Negotiation and Mediation' that attracted some forty students. This course focussed on preventive diplomacy and international third-party mediation in conflict. Experiences and lessons learned in this field were shared both on the basis of theoretical literature and case studies. The involvement of civil society through different forms of multi-track diplomacy was highlighted, while the problem of intercultural negotiations was discussed as well as the role of the media. Students also discussed ethical dilemmas and took part in a role game simulating international negotiations within the framework of EU decision-making.

For both courses study guides, readers and lists of relevant literature were composed. Students were

asked to take part in interactive assignments and had to formulate questions, write essays and take a written (take-home) exam. Both courses received good evaluations.

The CCS is now re-designing its study programme to fit the new Bachelors-Masters structure to be implemented at Utrecht University. The CCS has also been asked in this connection to design a one-year MA course on 'Conflict Studies'.

Lobby and advocacy 3

There is an urgent need to build understanding amongst practitioners, the public as well as the EU and its institutions, of the role that governments, development organisations, indigenous associations, peace movements and religious bodies can play in reducing the potential for violent conflict, rebuilding war-torn societies and in preventing future violence.

ROUNDTABLE ON CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING

The main goal for the European Centre in 2001 was to continue our lobbying activities towards the Dutch political scene, as set in motion in 2000. The aim was to introduce the European Centre and the European Platform and to raise awareness for the positive roles NGOs, local groups, media, and so on can play in conflict prevention and peace building. This effort resulted in several meetings with the spokesmen on international relations and / or defence of all major political parties.

In October the European Centre in co-operation with the Netherlands Institute for International Relations 'Clingendael' organised the second roundtable on conflict prevention and peace building. At the first roundtable in 2000 the state of affairs of the field in the Netherlands was discussed. This year's conference was a follow up and focused on five concrete issues. The conference gathered representatives of the leading academic and non-governmental institutions, civil servants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and politicians.

The report of this conference, including concrete recommendations was sent to all members of the *Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs*, one of the 13 standing committees of the Dutch parliament. Several members of parliament put forward the recommendations in the parliamentary debate on the governmental white paper on conflict prevention.

The participants concluded that:

- There is a need for more academic research on conflict prevention and peace building;

- More work should be done in developing mechanisms to ensure early response to early warning signals. These mechanisms should include and be instrumental for all actors working in conflict areas: local and Dutch NGOs, academic institutions and different sectors of the governmental apparatus. More research has to be done to see how to combine and operationalise already existing (models of) early warning -early response mechanisms.
- Local Capacities for Peace are crucial for establishing durable peace. But who and what are these local capacities and how can we support them? In order to secure more funding for the activities of local capacities, more research is needed to categorise these activities;
- Although conflict prevention and peace building seem to be high on the political agenda, the public at large is still unaware of the positive impact NGO activities aimed at conflict prevention and peace building can and do have. To change this situation, a public awareness campaign is needed.
- Over the last couple of years, countries in a post-war situation such as Kosovo, Bosnia, and East Timor, have brought about a great demand for experts on conflict-prevention and peace building related matters. Often the request by the UN, OSCE, or EU for civilian experts is greater than the government can deliver on short notice. Therefore, it would be an option to set up an expert pool, independent from the government, which finds, screens, and categorises potential experts in the field of human rights, democratisation, election monitoring, justice and so on.

*Finance & funding***STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2001**

	2001		2000	
	€	€	€	€
Income		841,314		598,424
Grant from NCDO	113,445		136,134	
Grant from Optimix	90,756		90,756	
Premium loan Stichting Optimix	11,118		9,302	
Grant from Hewlett Foundation	108,907		134,525	
Grant Chair Meyer Swantée	8,087		14,602	
<i>Subtotal Core grants</i>	<u>332,313</u>		<u>385,319</u>	
Project grants				
Grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands concerning:				
• Asia	51,641		33,522	
• Europe	44,087		38,114	
• Lessons Learned in conflict prevention	10,210		0	
• Gripsholm	6,555		0	
• Africa	3,824		10,108	
• Media and Peacebuilding	2,269		0	
<i>Subtotal grant from Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands</i>	<u>118,586</u>		<u>81,744</u>	
Grant CIDA	0		35,779	
Grant DFID Europe	120,815		33,915	
Grant MFA Denmark	37,654		6,807	
Grant Karl Popper Institute	11,046		6,807	
Grant Sasakawa Peace Foundation	39,377		0	
Grant Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	42,304		0	
Grant others	10,437		27,444	
Grant Cordaid: Lessons Learned Africa	<u>45,378</u>		<u>0</u>	
Grant Cordaid: Lessons Learned regional seminars	30,446		0	
Grant Cordaid: Lessons Learned conferention KDK	45,668		0	
<i>Subtotal project grants</i>	<u>501,711</u>		<u>192,496</u>	
Other income (Publications, Other revenues)				
Subtotal other income	7,290		20,609	
Total income	841,314		598,424	

	2001		2000	
	€	€	€	€
Expenditure				
<i>Expenses activities</i>				
Newsletter	18,371		17,035	
Website	12,297		3,350	
Searching for Peace in Asia	61,586		26,842	
Searching for Peace in Africa	565		12,120	
Searching for Peace in Europe	150,083		25,422	
Searching for Peace in Middle East	3,149		516	
University Chair project	6,470		2,655	
Project Lessons Learned	100,340		0	
Platform (including Steering Group)	2,575		6,211	
Lobby	1,297		1,963	
Other project expenses	0		25,781	
<i>Subtotal expenses activities</i>	356,733		131,895	
Personnel expenses ¹	428,134		319,572	
Depreciation	10,762		14,916	
Costs of premises	26,057		21,576	
Office expenses	33,022		41,795	
Administrative expenses	11,851		14,083	
Other general expenses	30,731		25,885	
		897,290		569,722
		(55,976)		28,702
Interest income	2,618		3,132	
		2,618		3,132
Result for the financial year		(53,358)		31,834

1 During 2001 an average of 10 employees were employed by the company (2000: 8)

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Introduction

We have audited the financial statements of Stichting Europees Centrum voor Conflictpreventie, Amsterdam for the year 2001. These financial statements are the responsibility of the foundations' management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Scope

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the Netherlands. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the foundation as at December 31, 2001 and of the result for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the Netherlands.

Amsterdam, June 14, 2002

PriceWaterhouseCoopers N.V

DONORS OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION 1998 - 2001

1998	1999	2000	2001
1 Dutch MFA	Abraham Fund	Canadian MFA	Austrian MFA
2 Hewlett Foundation	Canadian MFA	Compton Foundation	Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
3 NCDO	Dutch MFA	Danish MFA	Cordaid
4 Optimix Foundation	Hewlett Foundation	DFID	Danish MFA
5	Meyer Swantée Foundation	Dutch MFA	DFID
6	NCDO	Hewlett Foundation	Dutch MFA
7	Optimix Foundation	Karl Popper Foundation	German MFA
8	SIDA	Meyer Swantée Foundation	Karl Popper Foundation
9	SVD Foundation	National Unesco Committee	Meyer Swantée Foundation
10		NCDO	NCDO
11		Optimix Foundation	Optimix Foundation
12		SVD Foundation	Sasakawa Peace Foundation
13		Van Dijk Studieboeken	Slifka Foundation
14			SVD Foundation
15			Swedish MFA
16			Swiss MFA
17			US Institute for Peace
18			Van den Berch van Heemstede Foundation
19			William & Flora Hewlett Foundation

LIST OF DONORS

The European Platform and Centre would like to thank the following donors who supported our work through their funding in the year 2001.

NCDO (Netherlands)

The National Committee for International Co-operation and Sustainable Development stimulates and co-finances activities that contribute to raising awareness and support in the Netherlands for a just and sustainable world that makes due allowance for the interests of present and future generations.

OPTIMIX Foundation (Netherlands)

The OPTIMIX Foundation is a foundation of OPTIMIX asset management, which invests 5% of their gross profit in the OPTIMIX Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to support welfare activities in the field of social help, healthcare, sustainable development, education and culture.

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (USA)

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation is a private foundation with broad charitable interests and a strong commitment to the voluntary, non-profit sector. Conflict resolution is one of the primary issues for the foundation.

Meyer Swantée Foundation (Netherlands)

The Meyer Swantée Foundation is a private foundation established to finance the Special Chair of Conflict Studies at Utrecht University. The Conflict Studies programme started in September 2000.

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Conflict Management and Prevention department of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the update of the International Directory "Prevention and Management of Conflicts", the conference 'Prevention of Violent Conflict and Building Peace' in Sweden, May 2001, and the Lessons Learned project. The ministry also supports the on-going 'Searching for Peace' programme.

Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs supported, 'Promoting the Prevention of Violent Conflict and Building Peace by Interaction between State actors and Voluntary organisations (Gripsholm-II)'.

Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) supported the Lessons Learned project.

Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Department of Development Cooperation of the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs supports the 'Searching for Peace in Asia' project.

Department for International Development (DFID) (United Kingdom)

The Department for International Development is a UK Government department, working to promote sustainable development and eliminate world poverty. DFID supports both the 'Searching for Peace' projects on Europe and Asia.

Danish MFA (Denmark)

Safeguarding the environment and promoting peace and stability are among the main priorities of Danish foreign policy. The Secretariat of the Peace & Stability Fund of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports the 'Searching for Peace' project on Europe.

German Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The German Federal Foreign Office supported the conference 'Prevention of Violent Conflict and Building Peace' in Sweden, May 2001.

Sasakawa Peace Foundation (Japan)

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) sponsors a wide range of programs designed to address international issues and to promote global peace via non-profit sector initiatives worldwide. SPF supports the 'Searching for Peace in Asia' project.

Karl Popper Foundation (Switzerland)

The Karl Popper Foundation is a private foundation in Switzerland that co-funds the 'Searching for Peace in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia' project.

Cordaid (Netherlands)

Established at the end of 1999, Cordaid is a merger of three Dutch based NGOs. Cordaid has chosen conflict prevention as a policy spearhead. Cordaid has supported both the Lessons Learned project and the 'Searching for Peace in the Middle East' project.

SVD (Netherlands)

The SVD is a Catholic Mission Congregation. The SVD co-funds the Education & Training, and the Lessons Learned projects which are both implemented in close co-operation with Kontakt der Kontinenten (KdK).

Slifka Foundation (USA)

The Slifka Foundation is a private foundation founded by the philanthropist Alan B. Slifka. The Slifka Foundation has contributed to the Lessons Learned project.

Van den Berch van Heemstede Stichting (Netherlands)

The Van den Berch van Heemstede Foundation supported the publication of the Lessons Learned project.

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Through its four programs, and their more specific program areas, the Foundation seeks to fulfil its mission of supporting efforts that promote a just, equitable and sustainable society. The Mott Foundation supports the Lessons Learned project.

United States Institute for Peace

The United States Institute of Peace (www.usip.org) is an independent non-partisan federally funded corporation engaged in research, education, training, and outreach on the ways and means of international conflict resolution. USIP supports our 'Searching for Peace in the Middle East' project.

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT THE WORK OF THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM

'This Directory (...) provides a wealth of information for building bridges between local and external actors.'

Jan Pronk, former Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation

'... essential resource tool (...) most comprehensive guide to organisations in the field, academics, policy makers, NGOs and IGOs.' Professor Kevin Clements, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, USA

(On the occasion of the publication of People Building Peace - 35 Inspiring Stories from Around the World - May, 1999)

'This book is a milestone in the movement towards a culture of peace. It documents how, throughout the world, people are making progress on the various issues that -taken together- contribute to the coming culture of peace and non-violence. I invite the reader to take up this book and learn from the rich experiences and visions documented in its pages. I also invite readers to take up the challenge and emulate these actions in their own communities. It is by joining together that we can make the global transformation from a culture of war and violence to a culture of peace and non-violence.'

Federico Mayor, Director-General UNESCO

'It is great to read about the successes people are having in building peace around the world! Hope and optimism are out there, but these characteristics are rarely reflected in the popular media. I consider this book a 'must' read, if you want to understand how it is possible to build sustainable peace in the next century.'

Ambassador John McDonald, Co-founder and Chairman Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy

(On the occasion of the publication of 'Searching for Peace in Africa', September 1999)

'In this publication the conflicts in Africa are well-documented in a detailed manner making it very useful for diplomats, media, activists and practitioners alike whether based in the region or elsewhere. The conflicts are described in a neutral and balanced manner. Thus, Searching for Peace in Africa is a unique contribution of great value to all who are interested in African affairs specifically and in conflict resolution in general.' Peter Wallensteen, Dag Hammarskjöld Professor of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden

'Searching for Peace in Africa will no doubt help policymakers and concerned organisations understand the extreme complexities of conflicts, especially when domestic. It should also encourage efforts for effective action.'

Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, Executive Secretary of the Global Coalition for Africa.

(On the occasion of 'Searching for Peace in Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia', to be published in October 2001)

'The foreseen publication enables the international community to have a better insight into possibilities for effective action to prevent inter-ethnic differences from escalating to violent conflicts. I highly commend the work of the European Platform.' Max van der Stoel, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

'I should say that the Commission is aware of the excellent work carried out by your association in the field of conflict prevention. I very much appreciate this commitment and I strongly encourage Commission services to develop contacts and co-operation with the Secretariat of the Platform and its members' Rt. Hon. Christopher Patten, EU Commissioner External relations

"Early action should follow early action. Early warning relies on good information. This book not only makes that point, but also provides the raw materials. Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia is a vital handbook for anyone interested in conflict prevention and crisis management"

- Max van der Stoel, former High Commissioner on National Minorities for the OSCE, in his preface in the book *Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia*

"The directory of more than 400 organisations operating in Europe and Eurasia will be in high demand by practitioners in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. NGOs, and the media."

- Vladimir Goryayev, Political Affairs Officer, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations (on the book *Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia*)