



Council conclusions on South Sudan

Foreign Affairs Council meeting

Brussels, 15 December 2014

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. Today marks one year since the outbreak of the destructive conflict in South Sudan. The European Union (EU) is dismayed that all efforts have so far proved unsuccessful in resolving the situation. It calls on the parties to bring the conflict to an immediate end and swiftly reach a political settlement.
2. The civil war has resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands, the displacement of two million people with detrimental effects also in the neighbouring countries and appalling violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. At least 2.5 million people will face severe food shortages in the coming months and this man-made situation has become one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. The EU is particularly concerned at the continued hindrance of international humanitarian assistance.
3. The EU is deeply concerned about reports that human rights violations and abuses, including sexual violence against women, continue even today. It stresses the need to end impunity in South Sudan and bring the perpetrators to justice, and looks forward to the publication of the report from the AU Commission of Inquiry.
4. The EU expresses its full support for the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to protect civilians in all parts of South Sudan and to the benefit of all communities, including by sheltering more than 100 000 civilians in its own bases.
5. The EU has lent full support to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) efforts to push for inclusive and comprehensive peace talks, including by financing the cease-fire verification and monitoring mechanism, yet the government and the opposition have failed to engage in the process in good faith. Both sides have undermined the process by failing to honour their commitments and excluding others from negotiations, while regularly breaching the cessation of hostilities agreement and continuing their hostilities on the ground. It is vital that the parties respect their commitments and desist from any planned offensives.

6. Given this alarming lack of progress, the EU welcomes the declarations of the latest IGAD Summit and the African Union Peace and Security Council that restrictive measures will be applied to any party responsible for violating the cessation of hostilities or obstructing the political negotiations. The EU calls for their swift adoption in coordination with the UN Security Council. The EU has imposed an arms embargo and invites all international key partners to consider this step, and calls for measures to ensure that the wealth of the country is used for the benefit of the South Sudanese people rather than to stockpile weapons of war. The EU is ready to consider further targeted restrictive measures against those individuals obstructing peace in South Sudan.

Tougher action by the international community as a whole, including regional partners, is needed to press all sides in the conflict to pursue the path of peaceful negotiation to a lasting settlement to their political differences in the primary interest of the South Sudanese population."
