



## **Info Note on EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy**

### **Process and State of Play**

The current work on a EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy is the second phase of a larger strategic reflection process.

A first phase consisted of an assessment of the changing global environment. The corresponding report "The EU in a Changing Global Environment: A more connected, contested and complex world" was duly presented to the European Council on 25 June 2015.

The Council subsequently invited the High Representative "to continue the process of strategic reflection with a view to preparing an EU global strategy on foreign and security policy in close cooperation with Member States, to be submitted to the European Council by June 2016".

The decision at the European Council on 25 June 2015 to invite the High Representative to develop an EU Global Strategy on foreign and security policy underlines common concerns about the profound changes occurring in the world.

The Global Strategy should contribute to giving the Union a better sense of direction and setting a new level of ambition for its foreign policy, explaining what the EU stands for and hopes to achieve in the world.

From the very beginning the HR/VP stressed that the process of strategy making will be as important as its outcome. To ensure the process is inclusive, the drafting of the EU Global Strategy is accompanied by a broad debate with Member States and EU institutions (starting from European Commission and European Parliament), as well



as the wider foreign policy community, civil society and the public at large.

The public consultation process was kicked off last October with a large conference in Brussels organised by the European Institute for Security Studies. A series of events have followed several each month, to address specific issues from security and defence policy to climate change and cyber, to some regional focuses on Latin America, Africa and Asia.

These events – altogether there will be more than fifty- are taking place all over our Union many in close cooperation with Member States. To exchange views with citizens directly, the HRVP participated in Citizens Dialogues organised together with the European Commission and in public debates set up by think tanks and universities.

Since the EU Global Strategy is about the future, it is only natural to involve young people. The HRVP will meet with students and young professionals from around the world, all alumni of our Erasmus + programme, to get to the heart of what preoccupies young people. Universities will also be involved in other ways, for example through an essay competition for students.

To have a constant and far-reaching interface with the public, a dedicated website (<http://europa.eu/globalstrategy>) has been set up to chronicle each step of the outreach on the EU global strategy and inform on key events and publications. The website is also a platform for getting involved in the debate, whether through Twitter or by sending comments on key questions guiding the strategy.

In order to ensure ownership by Member States, National Contact Points (appointed by the National Governments) meet every month for in depth discussions of different aspects of the strategy. In addition to these meetings, the Global Strategy is also regularly discussed at the level of ambassadors in COREPER and PSC and also among Ministers in the Foreign Affairs Council, at the Informal Development Ministers Meeting, and, most recently, at the Gymnich, where a joint debate with Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers took place.



In order to ensure coherence between the internal and external dimensions of our policies, a Task Force with representatives of Commission Services has been set up. They are regularly consulted on particular aspects of the Global Strategy. The Strategy is also discussed by the College of Commissioners.

An important way to reach out to EU citizens has been by involving also National Parliaments. The HRVP has already exchanged views on the EU Global Strategy with the parliamentarians of several EU Member States.

Finally, a major part of this consultation phase will be represented by the exchange of views with the European Parliament and the Parliaments of the EU Member States. The IPC is, in this respect, an opportunity to ensure the wider and comprehensive parliamentary contribution to the forthcoming Strategy.

This reflection phase should ensure ownership and buy-in of the institutional actors crucial for the finalization of the Global Strategy in view of the European Council next June.