



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Permanent Representatives Committee / Council
No prev. doc.:	9705/09
Subject:	European Diplomatic Programme (EDP) - Approval of the updated text

The European Diplomatic Programme (EDP), established in 1999, aims at providing common diplomatic training at the EU level and at fostering the development of personal networks among EU diplomats and officials. It is supervised by the EEAS and the EU Training Directors.

On the basis of a proposal by the EEAS, on 16 October 2012, the EU Training Directors agreed an updated text of the EDP, which was subsequently examined by the Antici Group on 6 November 2012.

The Permanent Representatives Committee is requested to endorse the text as set out in the Annex and to submit it to the Council for approval.

"EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMME" (EDP)

General framework

1. The European Diplomatic Programme (EDP) was established in November 1999 by the former Political Committee (doc. 10509/00) and revised in February 2009 by the Working Party on "CFSP Administrative Affairs and Protocol" (doc.6488/09)
2. The EDP provides at allowing diplomatic training at European level and is targeted at enhancing the contribution of Member States to the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and other external policies of the European Union.
3. The EDP is placed under the responsibility of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and managed jointly by the EEAS, the Presidency in office and the following Presidency in coordination with the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council. The representatives of these parties managing the EDP are collectively defined as the "EDP managers".
4. The EDP is supervised by the EEAS and the Training Directors of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in coordination with the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council. Specific guidelines are agreed upon by them for the implementation of the EDP.
5. The EEAS and the Training Directors will continue to consult and to meet informally to ensure continuous monitoring of the EDP, including during the opening and closing sessions of each cycle.

6. The EDP runs in one-year cycles. Each EDP cycle consists of four compulsory modules. These modules are held at different locations and based broadly on CFSP issues and the external policies of the European Union. The languages of instruction are French and/or English.

7. The EDP should seek to complement existing training arrangements offered by the EEAS, the European Union institutions and individual Member States.

Aims of the EDP

8. There are three general aims of the Programme. The first major aim is the creation of personal networks among European diplomats.

The second aim is the raising of common diplomatic awareness with regard to the specifically European dimension of diplomacy.

The third aim is to provide a learning environment where officials can be trained within an original framework.

9. There are four objectives of the EDP courses in terms of learning, namely to:

- impart knowledge on the CFSP and other external policies of the EU;
- train in diplomatic skills;
- sensitise participants through practical case studies to national and European interests;
- create a sense of common European purpose through training in joint problem-solving.

Each participant should be granted the opportunity to enlarge and to deepen his or her competence with regard to EU affairs through the participation in this Programme with leading academic experts and national and EU staff. As far as possible, the Programme should be based on practical learning, with an emphasis on case studies, as well as simulated and real participation in multilateral negotiations.

Target Group

10. The EDP's courses will be aimed at diplomats of all national Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as the EEAS, Commission and General Secretariat of the Council officials. Priority is given to the training of junior diplomats and officials. Member States and the EEAS in coordination with the Commission and General Secretariat of the Council will decide on the number of participants to the Programme, on the indicative basis of two participants per service each year.

11. Participants should have a basic knowledge of the EU and its institutions, a good knowledge of the working languages English and/or French, and should be available to attend all modules of the Programme. A balanced gender spread is strongly encouraged.

12. In order to deepen the network of personal contacts created by the Programme, a virtual platform will be available for this purpose and regularly updated by the EEAS.

Management

13. The cycle will start with the Presidency beginning in July and should finish by June of the following year.

14. The Presidency will circulate, by mid July, the details of the curriculum established by the EDP managers.

In order to give intellectual content, while ensuring a practical approach to training, academic experts and senior officials from national and European institutions will be invited to participate. Research and training institutions will also be invited to collaborate with the EDP managers in the implementation of the EDP.

15. The EDP managers will also be responsible for the following:

- selecting, where appropriate, training institutions on the basis of proposals made by Member States, the EEAS, the Commission or the General Secretariat of the Council
- establishing a short-list of participants;
- establishing the dates for the different activities;
- in general, coordinating all matters necessary to ensure the proper operation of the Programme.

16. The duration of the Programme should be long enough to ensure that its goals can be reached. The core structure, of up to three weeks within each one year cycle, is designed to allow course objectives to be combined with the demands of the sending service. Accordingly, the curriculum is divided into modules that last several days.

17. General organisational and administrative costs are covered by the party in charge of organizing each particular module, whereas travel and subsistence fall to the Authorities of the participants.

18. The opening Module of the EDP is held in the Member State holding the Presidency during the first semester of the cycle. After this Module participants, according to their preferences, will be assigned to a Member State, the EEAS, the Commission or the General Secretariat of the Council for the purpose of Module II.

During this second Module, participants visit a Member State, the EEAS, the Commission or the General Secretariat of the Council on an individual exchange basis. Should the participant be unable to visit the assigned host institution, an alternative Programme would be developed by the assigned host institution and the participants to fulfill the objectives of the European Diplomatic Programme. The third Module is organised by the EEAS in coordination with the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council. Interested Member States are welcome to contribute .

The closing Module of the EDP is held in the Member State holding the Presidency during the second semester of the cycle.

19. A certificate is awarded to the participants upon completion of the course, on behalf of the EDP managers, by the closing Presidency (Module IV). A remark specifying the number of modules attended will be indicated for those participants who have missed one module. No certificate will be awarded to participants who missed more than one module.

20. The Training Directors and the EEAS will follow closely the work of the participants. Their feedback will be crucial for the further development of the Programme.

21. At the end of each EDP cycle, the EEAS jointly with the Training Directors will make a final assessment of the results, based on an evaluation presented to them by the participants and the EDP managers. This evaluation will continue to be included in the minutes of the closing session.

The final assessment will then be used to complete the preparation of the next edition.