

# Checklist for Root Causes of Conflict European Union 2000

## 1. Legitimacy of the State

- Are there proper checks and balances in the political system?
- How inclusive is the political or administrative power?
- What is the overall level of respect for national authorities?

## 2. Rule of Law

- How strong is the judicial system?
- Does unlawful state violence exist?
- Does civilian power control security forces?
- Does organized crime undermine the country's stability?

## 3. Respect for Fundamental Rights

- Are civil and political freedoms respected?
- Are religious and cultural rights respected?
- Are other basic human rights respected?

## 4. Civil Society and the Media

- Can civil society operate freely and efficiently?
- How independent and professional are the media?

## 5. Relations Between Communities and Dispute-Solving Mechanisms

- How good are relations between identity groups?
- Does the state arbitrate over tensions and disputes between communities?
- Are there uncontrolled flows of migrants/refugees?

## 6. Sound Economic Management

- How robust is the economy?
- Is the policy framework conducive to macro-economic stability?
- How sustainable is the state's environmental policy?

## 7. Social and Regional Inequalities

- How are social welfare policies addressed?
- How are social inequalities tackled?
- How are regional disparities tackled?

## 8. Geopolitical Situation

- How stable is the region's geopolitical situation?
- Is the state affected by external threats?
- Is the state affecting regional stability?

# EU Checklist for Root Causes of Conflict

## 1. Legitimacy of the State

- **Are there proper checks and balances in the political system?**
  - Respect of the Constitution, ability of the Parliament and the Judiciary to check on the executive, devolution of powers and ability of regional authorities (if any) to counterbalance central power ...
- **How inclusive is the political or administrative power?**
  - Ethnic and religious representativeness of the government, equality of access to political activity, participative decision-making, fair recruitment in the administration and other public institutions ...
- **What is the overall level of respect for national authorities?**
  - Historical resentments against State authority, existence of independentist movements, parties advocating for extreme solutions (revolutionary or reactionary) to perceived shortcomings, perceived ability of the State to answer people's needs ...
- **Is corruption widespread?**
  - Overall level of corruption, existence of anti-corruption programmes, widespread bribery in bureaucracies, collusion between private sector and civil servants ...

## 2. Rule of Law

- **How strong is the judicial system?**
  - Independence and effectiveness of the judiciary, equality of all citizens before the law, effective possibility to undertake legal action against state decisions, enforcement of legal decisions ...
- **Does unlawful state violence exist?**
  - Participation of security forces in illegal activities (road blocks, extortion, others), effective prosecution of human rights abuses by security forces, existence of a minimal human rights framework for their operation, prison conditions ...
- **Does civilian power control security forces?**
  - Influence of security forces over political decision-making, role of the Parliament debating/checking their use, existence of open debate and media/academic scrutiny on the security sector ...
- **Does organized crime undermine the country's stability?**
  - Control of a significant part of the country/economy by criminal networks (drugs, natural resources, human trafficking), existence of private armies or armed para-military groups acting with impunity, proper re-integration of former combatants into social life ...

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## 3. Respect for Fundamental Rights

- **Are civil and political freedoms respected?**
  - Respect of the right to vote eligibility, protection of civil liberties including freedom of speech & assembly, free and fair elections respecting the rights of the opposition ...
- **Are religious and cultural rights respected?**
  - Punishment by law of religious, ethnic, or cultural discrimination, recognition of minority language e.g. in education, definition of the state with no reference to a dominant religious/cultural identity ...
- **Are other basic human rights respected?**
  - Prosecution of human rights violations (torture, illegal detention), gender equality, freedom of private practices (dress codes, private life, etc.), adherence to and implementation of commitments under international human rights treaties and conventions, effective operation of human rights monitoring by NGOs and/or international organizations ...

## 4. Civil Society and the Media

- **Can civil society operate freely and efficiently?**
  - Protection of NGOs and rights of association by the state, liveliness of civil society access to staff, training, resources and others, ability to influence policy processes and resolve tensions between communities...
- **How independent and professional are the media?**
  - Censorship by government, independence of the media from partisan agendas and political or private interests, ability to reflect the views of all social groups

## 5. Relations Between Communities and Dispute-Solving Mechanisms

- **How good are relations between identity groups?**
  - Ability of major identity groups to mix together, frequency of outbursts of racial/religious violence, perpetuation of negative stereotypes or mutual suspicions by collective memory and culture, existence and effectiveness of reconciliation mechanisms (e.g. justice commissions) ...
- **Does the state arbitrate over tensions and disputes between communities?**
  - Existence and effectiveness of mechanisms arbitrating between conflicting parties ('wisemen', elders, ombudsmen), political manipulation of ethnic/identity differences, existence of regional for a for conflict prevention/resolution ...
- **Are there uncontrolled flows of migrants/refugees?**
  - Social friction between migrant and host communities (e.g. adverse pressure on food, water, etc.), respect for basic rights of migrants/ refugees, impact of migration flows on ethnic/identity balance of host regions ...

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## 6. Sound Economic Management

- **How robust is the economy?**
  - Income dependence on a limited number of sectors (e.g. one single agricultural product or industry or remittance), capacity to react to natural disasters or international conditions (e.g. massive swings in commodity prices) ...
- **Is the policy framework conducive to macro-economic stability?**
  - Stability of main macro-economic fundamentals (inflation, public deficit, current accounts), ability to attract investment (both domestic and FDI), implementation of policies negotiated with IFIs ...
- **How sustainable is the state's environmental policy?**
  - Fairness of management of natural resources (e.g. water), anticipation of possible internal or external conflicts over natural resources, risk of serious environmental degradation (e.g. desertification) forcing people into exile or threatening traditional ways of life ...

## 7. Social and Regional Inequalities

- **How are social welfare policies addressed?**
  - Overall level of literacy, health, sanitation, development of safety nets & income policies (or, by default, existence of alternative social mechanism ensuring local or family solidarity), correct anticipation of massive demographic changes by public policies (especially urbanization and youth unemployment) ...
- **How are social inequalities tackled?**
  - Trend for poverty and marginalization (especially in absolute terms), vulnerability of least-favoured segments of society, fairness of access to education, health care, jobs, economic opportunities (including women and minorities), existence of public policies addressing inequalities, among communities through land reform, quota systems, social programmes or others ...
- **How are regional disparities tackled?**
  - Urban/rural gaps, existence of regions lagging behind in terms of economic development or particularly affected by lack of vital resources, redistributive policies between regions ...

## 8. Geopolitical Situation

- **How stable is the region's geopolitical situation?**
  - Relations with the country's neighbours, pending border issues, dependency of the country on unstable neighbours for vital assets (e.g. access to sea or water), effectiveness of regional conflict-resolution mechanisms ...
- **Is the state affected by external threats?**
  - Destabilising policies of outside forces, existence of proactive communities/diaspora abroad, ability to control arms trafficking ...
- **Is the state affecting regional stability?**
  - Support to militias or rebel groups operation on neighbouring territories, protection of war criminals or rebel groups from neighbouring states, exploitation of the country's natural resources for foreign purposes, presence of illicit international activities on the country's territory