

**THE NORKET DISTRICT\******Confidential Instruction for the Representative  
of the EUROPEAN UNION***

You have recently been appointed as a special adviser to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR), Catherine Ashton. You have worked as a mediator on security issues for many years. Previously in the Foreign Service of your own country and currently within the structures of the European External Action Service at a recently developed "Conflict prevention, Peace building and Mediation Instruments Division". After consultations with the Department for Conflict Prevention and Security Policy and with both the corresponding geographical directorate and EU Delegation, the High Representative has asked you to set up a mediation between the Representative of the Darbek Government and the Representative of the Parliament of the Norket District.

You have learned that the representative of the Darbek Government is a close adviser to the Darbek president. The Representative of the Parliament of the Norket District is a trusted consultant to the Chairman of the District Parliament.

The High Representative and the Director for Conflict Prevention and Security Policy are very anxious to resolve this issue. This region is strategic for the European Union that has been pouring in subsidies since the dissolution of the Empire, both to Darbek and Norket. It intends to keep significant influence on both States, and make sure the region settles down.

Up to now, the European Union has not played an important enough role in conflict resolution. They have always been criticized for underacting. Last time, the EU sent a mediator to organise talks between two conflicting States (Curtia and Bretnia), the proposed agreement was publicly rejected, the situation even deteriorated and the United States eventually came up with a solution. The High Representative made it clear: you have to change that image and demonstrate that the European Union can manage a situation of tension and conflict. In 2009, the EU adopted the 'EU Concept on Mediation and Dialogue Capacities', but despite worthwhile aspirations it has yet to be fully integrated into EU structures and systems and is not widely known. A mediation success in the Norket situation could give the Concept widespread recognition within the EU and would boost the legitimacy of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, which is still too often questioned by some Member States and public opinion.

Given your experience of similar negotiations, you were logically chosen to take on this challenging task. The High Representative is particularly interested in seeing the talks result in a good compromise, as it would of course reflect positively on her image and that of the EEAS.

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In addition to that, you need to keep in mind that the participants of the meeting expect a lot from the European Union. Every year, Darbek, and in particular the Norket District, receive EU subsidies for development and therefore it seems legitimate that the EU intervenes as a mediator. All key actors in the region also know that the situation has to be stabilized if they want to be considered in the long term as privileged partners of the European Union. You know that Darbek and Norket would welcome such a perspective, as it would boost their economic growth and political status.

You need to look for acceptable agreements between the two representatives during this meeting. Failure is not an option. We wish you best of luck in dealing with this delicate and crucial meeting.