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Missions and Operations

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FOREWORD BY HR/VP JOSEP BORRELL

2023 was a particularly challenging year. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine continued unabated and the war returned to the Middle East after the 7 October massacre. But in many other places also armed conflicts and violence were again on the rise. This context affected our partners hosting EU CSDP Missions and Operations –often themselves ridden by fragile situations. Our work in the field has been increasingly marked by new threats and increased global competition.

In 2023, the EU has continued to stand firmly with Ukraine, demonstrating our unwavering support against Russia's war of aggression. To help Ukrainians defend their freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity, we deployed further political, humanitarian, economic and military assistance. The EU Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine, EUMAM, was at the forefront of this effort together with the military equipment provided by the EU and its Member States. EUMAM trained 40,000 Ukrainian service-men and women in 2023 only, leading the EU and its Member States to agree on even more ambitious target. The EU Advisory Mission in Ukraine worked with a new mandate to support Ukrainian civilian security sector's war related needs, including the investigation and prosecution of international crimes, and re-establishing the rule of law in the Liberated and Adjacent territories.

A new EU Mission in Armenia was launched in a fast-track mode in early 2023. Building on the prior deployment of the EU Monitoring Capacity, the new Mission contributes to human security in conflict-affected areas and supports confidence-building between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Countering and preventing hybrid threats proved to be an imperative in 2023 – both for our partners and our missions. In light of blatant and continued attacks by malicious actors, notably cyber-attacks and foreign information manipulation and interference, our EU Partnership Mission in Moldova was a key factor in that regard, working closely with Moldovan authorities to strengthen their capacities.

In Sahel, we were obliged to revisit our engagement on the ground. That implied the shift from the model of missions deployed so far to lighter engagements, in synch with



host countries' demands, and in coordination with social cohesion, peace and stabilisation initiatives by the European Commission. The EU Security and Defence Initiative in support of West African countries of the Gulf of Guinea was a 'première' – a joint and modular civilian-military effort to empower our partners in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin to preserve stability and resilience of their northern border areas. In Somalia and Mozambique, our military Training Missions continued to support our partners' armed forces in conjunction with the EU equipping them through the EPF.

In the Middle East, the Hamas attack of 7 October 2023 on Israel and the outbreak of the war in Gaza has also affected our two longstanding civilian missions EUBAM Rafah and EUPOL COPPS providing capacity building to the Palestinian Authority to strengthen prospects for a two-state solution. In spite of the security situation and movement restrictions, they went back to full activity in the West Bank and continued engaging with their counterparts. When it comes to Libya, the mandates of EU naval Operation IRINI and EUBAM Libya were renewed in March and June respectively. They continued to contribute to preserving the fragile stability in the country.

Improving our ability to act is at the heart of the implementation of the Strategic Compass. We continued working on reinforcing EU headquarters and their command and control functions for both civilian and military missions. Improving the effectiveness of civilian CSDP missions remained a priority, with the adoption of a new 'civilian CSDP Compact' and its 20 concrete commitments to be implemented by 2027. On the military side, the EU Rapid Deployment Capacity shall be fully operational in 2025.

Partnering is in our Missions and Operations' DNA. Be it to improve resilience, enhance our collective security, and tackle shared challenges: CSDP missions and operations on the ground deliver hand in hand with partners. 2023 has been an adverse year for many of our partners and some of our missions on the ground. The EU continues to stand ready to support them.

Josep Borrell Fontelles

High Representative of the European Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice-President of the European Commission



PART 1

2023 in Focus: Europe's Security under Threat





2023 IN FOCUS: EUROPE'S SECURITY UNDER THREAT

Joint foreword by Civilian Operations Commander Stefano Tomat and Director General EU Military Staff (EUMS) and Director Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC), Lt General Michiel van der Laan.

In 2023, we stepped up our efforts to protect the EU's values, citizens and interests to meet the challenges of a deteriorating global security situation and confront the harsh realities of entrenched warfare on our own doorstep. We strengthened the EU's posture as an international security actor with improved capabilities and increased resources. We also increased our state of preparedness to face future threats.

In total, 23 civilian and military missions and operations were deployed on three continents in 2023. This marks the EU's highest ever level of operational engagement. The presence of CSDP missions and operations on the ground and at sea demonstrates Europe's tangible commitment to international peace and stability. Under the EU flag, Member States deployed military, coast guards, police, monitors, border management specialists, justice advisors, prison advisors and other security experts, to bolster security in the Mediterranean, the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Caucasus and the Middle East. We monitored, trained and advised. We supported, partnered and connected. We reinforced the military and security capabilities of partner countries. From our regular inspections, we know that the men and women of these missions and operations make the difference, creating effects on the ground. We salute their service.

Our action abroad also serves Europe's own security interests. What happens today on our eastern and southern flanks will have direct impact on Europe's security tomorrow. Stability in our wider neighbourhood is and remains a permanent priority.

In 2023, our engagement shifted to a more flexible and demand-driven approach to better respond to the needs of our partners. The mandates of existing missions and operations have been tuned and strengthened. In particular, our civilian and military Ukraine missions, have stepped up their support to our Ukrainian neighbours in their hour of need.

We launched two new civilian missions in 2023, one in Armenia and one in Moldova, both aimed at resisting the slide towards further instability and conflict. In December we launched the Security and Defence Initiative in the Gulf of Guinea. It is the first combined military-civil action. It is designed to allow rapid scaling up.

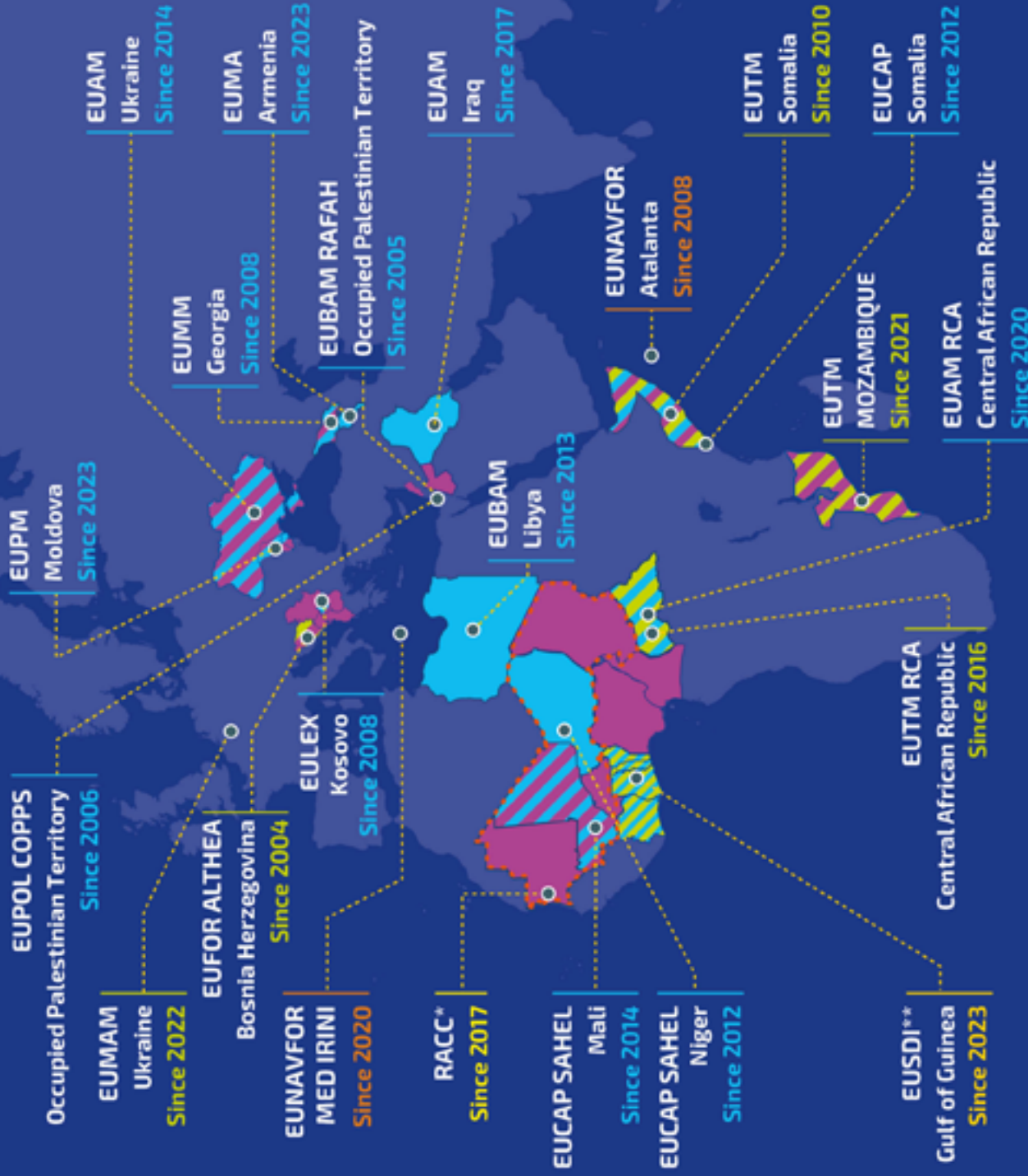
The Civilian Conduct and Planning Capability (CPCC), the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) as well as the EU Military Staff (EUMS) have planned, conducted and supported these missions and have at the same time been working diligently to fulfil the goals set out in the Strategic Compass.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has fundamentally altered the security landscape, the results of which will be tangible for many years to come. We need to remain focussed on sustaining our defence of European interests and values around the world.



EU SECURITY AND DEFENCE ENGAGEMENT AROUND THE WORLD

2023
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5 Ongoing military missions/operations

13 Ongoing civilian missions

2 Ongoing military naval operations/EUNAVFOR

1 Civilian & military initiative



Integrated Approach:

EU security and defence actions are deployed and implemented in concert with other EU tools and instruments to achieve strategic impact.



Objectives:

Peace-keeping, conflict prevention, strengthening international security, supporting the rule of law, prevention of human trafficking and piracy, contributing to maritime security, providing military equipment and security infrastructure to EU partners.

*RACC: EU Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell for the Sahel

**The EU Security and Defence Initiative/Gulf of Guinea aims to empower Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin to strengthen their security and defence capabilities

PART 2

Achievements of CSDP Missions and Operations







THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

EUROPEAN UNION ADVISORY MISSION UKRAINE (EUAM UKRAINE)



Overview

Amidst the challenging environment marked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, EUAM Ukraine continued to operate from both the Mission's HQ in Kyiv and the Field Offices in Odesa and Lviv. It continued its work on helping to strengthen Ukraine's civilian security sector and, ultimately, making Ukraine more resilient to Russia's unprovoked and illegal war of aggression.

The perspective of EU accession, but also operational imperatives requiring enhanced effectiveness, have triggered a comprehensive and genuine reform of the Ukrainian civilian security sector. Ukraine has demonstrated that transformation is possible despite the war. EUAM Ukraine played a key role in this process in 2023. This significantly strengthened the Mission's position and profile in Ukraine and demonstrated its added value vis-à-vis Ukrainian counterparts and international partners.

One of the EU accession requirements - The Overarching Strategic Plan for the Reform of the Entire Law Enforcement Sector - will remain the focus of Ukraine's law enforcement reform and a priority for EUAM's broader support to the civilian security sector at both the strategic and operational

levels. The mission works in close cooperation and full complementarity with the EU Delegation to Ukraine. Similarly, the mission remains actively engaged accountability for the international crimes perpetrated by Russia remains a key demand for Ukrainian leadership and its population. The mission contributes to this objective through its participation in the work of Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group (ACA). The mission also contributed to societal resilience in the de-occupied and adjacent territories, an essential requirement for Ukraine's long-term stability. Supporting the reform of the Integrated Border Management, combating organised crime and all forms of smuggling, including the large-scale smuggling of all commodities and the diversion of small arms and light weapons, are crucial not only for Ukraine's economic viability and the EU accession process, but also for the EU internal security. The Mission is actively supporting Ukraine in these areas.

Mandate

EUAM's mandate is implemented through three pillars of activity:

- Strategic advice on civilian security sector reform, and in particular the need to develop civilian security strategies.
- Support for the implementation of reforms through the delivery of practical advice, training, and other projects.
- Cooperation and coordination to ensure that reform efforts are coordinated with Ukrainian and international actors.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, EUAM Ukraine's mandate was revised in March and April 2022, adding temporary tasks at border crossing points between Ukraine and EU Member States, and enabling support in investigating and prosecuting international crimes allegedly committed in the context of Russia's unprovoked and illegal war on Ukraine.

Achievements

- **Overarching Strategic Plan for the Reform of the Entire Law Enforcement Sector (OAS):** The Mission supported Ukraine in the drafting process of OAS, which was one of the European Commission's seven recommendations for EU accession. The Strategy was approved by President Zelenskyy in May 2023, contributing to the EU Member States' decision to open EU accession negotiations in December 2023. The Mission provided strategic advice for joint interagency work on the elaboration of an OAS Action Plan in close cooperation with EUDEL, DG NEAR and DG HOME, as well as with local civil society and the Ukrainian Parliament.
- **Support to the security and intelligence sector:** The reform priorities for the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) were reinvigorated in the context of the Mission's support to the development of the OAS and its Action Plan. EUAM played an active role in the revitalisation of the International Working Group (IAG), consisting of EUAM, EUDEL, the US, the UK, and NATO, to harmonise views and strengthen advocacy in the reform process. EUAM organised capacity building activities for the SSU, the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine (FISU), and the National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) on the following topics: wartime challenges, building internal control and democratic oversight, Human Resource Management, and on international cooperation with European counterparts.
- **Integrated Border Management (IBM):** The Mission supported Ukraine's IBM capacity building efforts to bring it into line with EU standards, both at the IBM agency and at the interagency level. It also supported their cooperation with EU agencies, Justice and Home Affairs agencies in EU Member States, and with other



international actors. EUAM supported the revision of Ukraine's IBM Strategy to bring it in line with EU accession requirements, leading to the approval of a revised Action Plan for 2023-2025. EUAM also facilitated the approval of an Integrated Border Infrastructure Master Plan for road border crossing points between Romania and Ukraine, which contributes directly to the further implementation of the EU Solidarity Lanes concept. Ukraine launched a national Unified Register of Firearms in 2023, based on the Mission's recommendations.

- **International crimes:** Ensuring accountability for international crimes committed in Ukraine remained a key objective and political priority for Ukraine. Mission support to Ukraine's capacities to investigate and prosecute complex international crimes cases intensified and diversified. The Mission's strategic advice to the Office of the Prosecutor General (OPG) on prosecution strategies and case reviews were provided through the Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group (ACA), in which EUAM plays the role of Deputy Lead Coordinator. The Mission stepped up advice in the area of crimes against the environment, crimes against cultural heritage, and crimes against civilian infrastructure. The Mission continued to enhance Ukrainian civilian security sector (CSS) agencies practical capabilities in the areas of criminal analysis and complex crime scene management, use of open-source intelligence, conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) investigations, forensics, and the criminal liability of commanders. The Mission also provided recommendations on draft legislation concerning international humanitarian and criminal law implementation, with a particular focus on the role of victims and witnesses.
- **Stabilisation of Ukraine's Liberated and Adjacent Territories:** The Mission strengthened the CSS agencies' operational capabilities to re-establish the Rule of Law in liberated areas along four main work strands, by: 1) re-establishing basic infrastructure, functions, and services; 2) building capacity of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA); 3) investigating and prosecuting international crimes; and 4) through

community safety and social cohesion. Based on two pilot cities (Snihurivka in the southern Mykolaiv region, and Izyum in the eastern Kharkiv region), the Mission identified the need to implement a Stability Policing approach and the development of a sustainable pre-deployment Stability Policing training capacity.

- **Train & Equip:** In view of the Ukrainian losses in equipment and infrastructure during the war and recognising the urgent need to complement advice and training with the procurement of equipment and the necessary infrastructure, EUAM elaborated a holistic 'train and equip' approach in order to attract project funds from third parties. This led to the approval of projects with Austria and the Netherlands.

Activities

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the introduction of martial law continued to have a profound impact on Ukrainian Law Enforcement Agencies. While supporting the Armed Forces in their fight to counter the Russian aggression, they had to maintain public order and safety and face new challenges with the stabilisation and the return of the Rule of Law to LAT.

After the temporary reduction of the Mission's presence as a consequence of the Russian invasion, EUAM was fully re-established in the Area of Operations in 2023. In this new setting, the Mission faced a substantial increase in requests for support at a moment when Ukraine's application for EU accession accelerated the need for support in reforms. EUAM work strands significantly intensified. The need to increase the scope of the Mission's future mandate and mission personnel numbers to meet this new level of demand was recognised.

Operational priorities included national and state security, IBM and cross-border crime, organised crime, criminal justice, community safety and police management, and the investigation and prosecution of international crimes. Good governance, digital transformation and innovation, anti-corruption, human rights, and gender equality were implemented as Mission cross-cutting priorities.

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE (EUMAM UKRAINE)



Mandate

The EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine) is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Ukrainian Armed Forces to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and to deter and respond to possible future military offensives by Russia and other potential aggressors.

Concretely, EUMAM Ukraine provides training to the Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel at basic, advanced and specialised levels on medical assistance, CBRN, demining, logistics and communication, maintenance and repair, among others. It also provides junior leadership training from section/squad and platoon levels up to company, including operational training: preparation of companies, battalions and brigades in collective manoeuvres and tactics up to battalion level; and advice on the planning, preparation and conduct of live firing exercises.

Overview of the mission

EUMAM worked closely together with other like-minded international partners and states to provide training support to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. All mission activities were located on EU soil. In 2023, 24 EU Member States have offered training modules and personnel. The training was supported by the provision of equipment for lethal and non-lethal purposes to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. This equipment was provided by Member States and funded by the European Peace Facility (EPF).

Achievements

EUMAM UA has reached over 40,000 trained Ukrainian soldiers in 2023 and the mission aims at 75,000 trained Ukrainian soldiers by the end of winter 2025.

Activities

Together with EPF, EUMAM UA is the most visible sign of EU support to Ukraine. All mission activities were located on EU soil and followed the needs and requests of Ukraine. Basic training, specialised training, unit training and leadership training were all part of the mission.



EUROPEAN UNION MONITORING MISSION IN GEORGIA (EUMM GEORGIA)



Overview

EUMM was established in 2008 after the signature of the EU-brokered ceasefire agreement between Georgia and Russia which brought the Russia-Georgia conflict to an end. The Mission monitors security developments and their impact on conflict-affected communities living on both sides of the Administrative Boundary Lines (ABLs) with Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Mandate

The Mission's objective is to contribute to stability in Georgia and the wider region. For this purpose, the Mission monitors and reports on conflict-related issues, incidents, and

developments in Georgia, and facilitates the resumption of a safe and normal life for the local communities living on both sides of the ABLs with South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Achievements

Stability: the Mission maintained a 24/7 visible monitoring presence, with regular patrols along the ABLs with the occupied breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Such regular and visible presence on the ground contributed to general stability and gave a stronger sense of safety to the conflict-affected communities. The Mission played a central role in enabling the communication among the parties involved and de-escalating tensions on the ground as during the tragic shooting incident (on 6 November 2023) when a Georgian citizen was shot near the village of Kirbali in Gori.

- **Dialogue:** the Mission managed to maintain dialogue between the conflict parties through its confidence-



building mechanisms, including the EUMM-managed Hotline and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) in Ergneti. The meetings resulted in numerous practical achievements, ranging from the release of detainees to cross-ABL, cooperation on irrigation water and other issues important to local villagers. They have proven very useful for building greater confidence and trust between participants.

- Contribution to regional stability: following the formal establishment of the new European Union Mission in Armenia (EUMA) on 23 January 2023, the EUMM continued to provide substantial support to EUMA across a number of areas.

Activities

Monitoring

- In 2023, the Mission conducted 4,394 patrols. The monitors are deployed in EUMM's three Field Offices in Mtskheta, Gori and Zugdidi. Most patrols monitor the ABLs and the areas adjacent to them and observed freedom of movement along and across the ABLs and 'borderisation' activities (the process of Russian-initiated installation of physical barriers, such as fences, barbed wire, etc. to separate the two breakaway regions from the rest of Georgia).
- The Mission regularly hosted high-level visits to the ABLs to witness the security and humanitarian situation on the ground. The Mission hosted, among others, HRVP Josep Borrell, Swedish Crown Princess Victoria, the German Minister of Foreign Affairs and the OSCE Chairperson in Office. In addition human Security Patrols monitored the human rights situation of the conflict-affected population and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their settlements.

Confidence-building

- In 2023, the Mission co-facilitated seven meetings of the Ergneti IPRM, which brings together representatives from the Georgian, Russian and de facto South Ossetian authorities. These meetings offered an opportunity to exchange information and resolve specific incidents and issues that affect people along the South Ossetian ABL. These issues included the installation of 'borderisation' features, freedom of movement and detention cases.
- In 2023, the Mission handled 1,959 activations of the EUMM-managed Hotline. The telephone Hotline allows the conflict parties to exchange information around the clock, seven days a week, whenever an issue or incident requires immediate attention. The topics discussed over the Hotline included a wide range of confidence building matters, such as exchange of information on detentions, irrigation flows, needs for medical crossings, livestock, etc. The Hotline has proven very useful for participants to effectively establish a common understanding of events surrounding such incidents and it has repeatedly helped to de-escalate arising tensions. In addition, the Mission continued to finance small projects through its Confidence Building Facility that span the ABLs, including events intended to generate dialogue and understanding.

Reporting

The Mission informed EU decision-makers and the international community through impartial reporting. EUMM provides an important source of reliable information to the EU institutions and Member States, as well as the wider international community concerning security developments in Georgia.

All security related observations made by monitors during their patrols were gathered, analysed and reported to the European Union and its Member States.

EUROPEAN UNION MISSION IN ARMENIA (EUMA)



Overview

Following the escalation of tension on the Armenia–Azerbaijan border in September 2022, Armenia agreed to the temporary presence of an EU Monitoring Capacity (EUMCAP) on the Armenian side of the border for a period of two months. In December 2022, following the successful experience of EUMCAP, the Armenian government requested the EU to deploy a fully-fledged EU civilian mission on the ground. The EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA) was launched on 20 February 2023.

EUMA Headquarters (HQ) are located in Yeghegnadzor, with six Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Yeghegnadzor, Jermuk, Martuni, Kapan, Goris and Ijevan. The Mission also has a Liaison and Support Office in Yerevan. EUMA is exclusively deployed and operating within the internationally recognised territory of AM.

Mandate

EUMA observes and reports on the security situation along the Armenian side of the internationally recognised border with Azerbaijan. It aims at contributing to human security in conflict-affected areas in Armenia and to build confidence between Armenia and Azerbaijan. EUMA is an essential component of the EU's efforts in supporting peace in the region. It is a tool to support the mediation efforts, led by the EU.

Achievements

- The rapid deployment (in less than one month) of the Mission and its speedy operationalisation ensured the uninterrupted presence of EU observers. To expedite the process an existing mission was used as a “parent” mission - in this case EUMM Georgia - to assist the deployment of a new mission, supported by other CSDP missions through the Exchange of Staff mechanism. This was the through regular and visible presence in the Mission's Area of Operations (AoO), the Mission observed, analysed and reported on developments that could destabilise the situation. In doing so, it also reduced tensions in certain areas.

- On 5 December 2023, an amended operational plan to allow for increased patrolling in sensitive areas was approved by Member States. Armenian counterparts continue to provide strong support to the Mission, evidenced, for example, by the participation of the President of Armenia at the inauguration of Mission HQ on 1 November 2023.

Activities

Monitoring - Observing and reporting

- At regular and visible patrols, monitors observe and report to Brussels on the situation along the AM side of the border with Azerbaijan and the areas adjacent to them. The Mission has conducted over 1400 patrols since its launch. Of these, more than 500 were Security Situation Awareness (SSA) patrols and more than 900 Human Security (HS) patrols. The Mission's reports serve to inform MS political decision-making. In 2023, EUMA has prepared 36 reports in addition to its regular reporting.
- The Mission ensured timely situational awareness of the human security situation, concerns and needs through regular interactions with the conflict-affected population in border regions

Confidence-building

- Building confidence between conflict-affected populations remains a challenge. The Mission has made no tangible progress on cross-border activities and engagement in 2023. So far, the Mission has had no opportunities to directly engage with Azerbaijan officials and its efforts have, focused on supporting local, small-scale projects aimed at normalisation and facilitating meetings of confidence-building experts in Armenia. Since the start of EUMA operations, the Azerbaijani leadership has been consistently informed on a regular basis about steps undertaken by the EU in response. The EU's offer to deploy the mission also on the Azerbaijani side remains open.



EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERSHIP MISSION IN MOLDOVA (EUPM MOLDOVA)



Overview

Following Russia's military invasion of Ukraine, the European Union pledged to provide all relevant support to Moldova which was confronted with the multifaceted impact of Russia's military aggression. As one of the support measures, the European Union decided to deploy a civilian CSDP Mission in Moldova. EUPM Moldova was launched in May 2023 to support Moldova's resilience to hybrid threats.

The Mission has many innovative features, with a modular and scalable structure and a Project Cell as a distinct line of operation. Its support to the Moldovan partner institutions follows the "advise, train and equip" approach. Its flexible structure allows the mission to boost the number of experts to meet the evolving needs of Moldovan partners.

Mandate

EUPM Moldova is a civilian, non-executive, CSDP Mission mandated to enhance the resilience of the Moldovan security sector in the areas of crisis management and hybrid threats. The Mission supports the strengthening of the Moldovan crisis management structures and their capacity to counter hybrid threats, including in cybersecurity and foreign information manipulation and interference.

Achievements

In 2023, the first activities of the new Mission focused on supporting the Moldovan counterparts to establish new national bodies enhancing the security sector's resilience against hybrid threats. The Centre for Strategic Communications and Countering Disinformation (StratCom Centre) was set up in July 2023 by the Moldovan Parliament and launched its activities at the end of the year. Moreover, the Mission supported the rapid establishment of the National Cyber Security Agency. In the field of crisis management, support was offered in needs assessment and gap analysis, procedures and policy reform, with a view to developing a national comprehensive approach.

EUPM Moldova entered into the full operational phase towards the end of 2023.

Activities

Immediately after its launch, the Mission established working relations with local counterparts and conducted several needs assessments to ensure support was provided in the appropriate areas. Coordination with other international partners present in the country helped to avoid duplication of efforts and Projects were tailored to meet specific Moldova needs.

Shortly after its establishment, the Mission started providing advice, trainings and expertise in the fields of crisis management and hybrid threats. It organised study visits and events bringing together Moldovan partners and relevant European practitioners.





THE WESTERN BALKANS

EUROPEAN UNION RULE OF LAW MISSION IN KOSOVO (EULEX KOSOVO)



Overview

EULEX assists the Kosovo authorities in strengthening their rule of law institutions by conducting monitoring of selected cases at the police, prosecutorial and judicial level. It supports the Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS) and the Kosovo Probation Service (KPS) through monitoring, mentoring and advising. It furthermore supports the Kosovo Police (KP) on international police cooperation, notably with Interpol, Europol, and the Serbian Ministry of Interior. The Mission maintains a limited executive role as second security responder within a three-tiered security responder mechanism, where Kosovo acts as first and NATO/KFOR as third responder. EULEX also assists the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office located in The Hague and provides expert assistance to the Institute of Forensic Medicine (IFM) in the area of missing persons.

Achievements

De-escalation of tensions in northern Kosovo: 2023 was characterised by continuous tensions between Pristina and Belgrade, which flared up in violent events in Zvečan/Zveçan and Banjska/Banjskë.

The Mission's increased presence with enhanced patrols in northern Kosovo, monitoring of Kosovo Police operations following these violent events, and full mobilisation of medical personnel and other Mission support elements, contributed to de-escalation. During this period, the Mission's Formed Police Unit (FPU) was on high alert and ready to deploy with short notice, in line with the Mission mandate. The Mission's role as a go-between the parties and its actions in support of Kosovo institutions, proved a key stabilising factor. On three occasions the Mission temporarily deployed the Reserve FPU provided by Italy, France, and Lithuania under the aegis of EUROGENDFOR (March-July 2022; November 2022-June 2023; August 2023-beyond the end of the year). During these periods, the FPU and Reserve FPU conducted daily patrols in northern Kosovo and carried out 866 internal exercises/training sessions and 11 joint training sessions with either KFOR or the Kosovo Police.

Prisoner rights: From May 2023, the Mission increased its monitoring of the treatment of incarcerated Kosovo Serb prisoners suspected of war crimes and terrorism-related crimes. As these arrests gained public and political attention, both nationally and internationally, Mission's Correctional Unit (CU) initiated more intensive monitoring of their treatment during detention, both through visits to correctional facilities and hospital monitoring visits. The CU also increased its focus on monitoring cases that are sensitive in other aspects, e.g. detainees who gained high visibility among the public or in case the alleged offenders

were considered particularly vulnerable, such as juveniles accused of severe offenses. During this period, the CU paid 27 monitoring visits to 16 individuals.

Activities

- **Reconnaissance patrolling:** Within its role as second security responder, EULEX significantly enhanced its presence and visibility in northern Kosovo by conducting increased reconnaissance patrolling and foot patrols, including in areas and on roads near the two Common Crossing Points.
- **Monitoring judicial processes:** in 2023, EULEX monitored 448 court hearings related to 292 criminal and civil cases, including 45 related to high-profile cases. Progress was registered in several former EULEX cases pertaining to serious and organised crime, and the ratio of productive hearings slightly rose compared to the previous year. While progress was noted with these cases, several of them ended with either low sentences, acquittals or retrials.
- **Supporting the correctional system:** The Mission supported the Kosovo Correctional Services in its effort to improve internal and management structures and address the specific needs of inmates. The Mission also provided support to the streamlining of procedures in the KCS and the Kosovo Probation Service (KPS) and to further enhance professional skills and capacities of their staff, through trainings on prevention of radicalisation of detainees, meetings with KCS and KPS management and several dozens of working group meetings (to support the drafting of strategic action plans and sub-legal acts).
- **Prisoner rights:** From May 2023, the Mission increased its monitoring of the treatment of incarcerated Kosovo Serb prisoners suspected of war crimes and terrorism-related crimes. As these arrests gained public and political attention, both nationally and internationally, Mission's Correctional Unit (CU) initiated more intensive monitoring of their treatment during detention, both through visits to correctional facilities and hospital monitoring visits. The CU also increased its focus on monitoring cases that are sensitive in other aspects, e.g. detainees who gained high visibility among the public or in case the alleged offenders were considered particularly vulnerable, such as juveniles accused of severe offenses. During this period, the CU paid 27 monitoring visits to 16 individuals.
- **Missing persons:** The Mission supported the IFM in searching, exhuming, and identifying remains of missing persons from the 1998-2000 period. A total of 71 field operations (including 11 site assessments and 10 exhumations), were conducted. Additionally, from the examination of the remains in the morgue, 65 samples were collected for DNA analysis, and 1216 new identifications were achieved. A total of seven sets of remains were handed over to families.
- **International police cooperation:** EULEX supported the Kosovo Police International Law Enforcement Coordination Unit in the field of international police cooperation by facilitating the exchange of information through three channels: (i) Europol, (ii) National Central Bureaus of Interpol under the umbrella of UNMIK, and (iii) the Serbian Ministry of Interior.
- **Legislative support:** The Mission, through the legislative review mechanism, also contributed substantially to 16 key policy documents and laws, such as the anti-corruption strategy and the draft law on domestic violence.



KOSOVO SPECIALIST CHAMBERS AND SPECIALIST PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE IN 2023



Overview

The Kosovo Specialist Chambers (SC) and the Specialist Prosecutor's Office (SPO) have a specific mandate and jurisdiction over crimes against humanity, war crimes and other crimes under Kosovo law, which were commenced or committed in Kosovo between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2000 by or against citizens of Kosovo or the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They are relocated to The Hague, the Netherlands, with only international staff including the Judges, the Specialist Prosecutor and the Registrar. While financed under the CSDP budget, the SC and the SPO are independent in the exercise of their mandate. Both are of a temporary nature.

The European Union Mission Rule of Law in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo) supports the work of the SC and the SPO by providing security and logistical assistance during operations in Kosovo, such as custodial visits by detainees ordered on humanitarian grounds, and during staff missions. Furthermore, the EULEX Kosovo Head of Mission is the appointing authority for the Appointed Officials and the Judges.

Achievements and Activities

In 2023, the SC and SPO continued the efficient implementation of their mandates which is to deliver fair, impartial, independent, safe and secure judicial proceedings in relation to allegations of grave trans-boundary and international crimes committed during and in the aftermath of the conflict in Kosovo.

In 2023, a total of 1337 public court hearings were held. The public hearings are streamed on the SC website in the three official languages of the court - Albanian, Serbian and English - and recordings thereof are available on the SC YouTube channel. 130,000 views were recorded of the streaming page throughout 2023. During the reporting period, nearly 3,000 decisions and filings were processed and a total of 11,682 items totalling 144 GB were disclosed between the parties through the SC's electronic court management system.

During the year, 88 new applicants were granted the status of participating victims bringing the total at the end of the year to 157: eight in the case against Mr Mustafa, eight in the case against Mr Shala and 141 in the case against Mr Thaçi et al. Furthermore, 120 applicants have been denied participating victim status in the Thaçi et al case, as being geographically, temporally or materially out of the scope of the indictment. The SC's Victims Participation Office ensured that the denied applicants received legal advice and representation as regards possible appeal. Four such appeals were filed, which were all denied.

The SC also has a dedicated unit that ensures the safety, physical and psychological wellbeing, dignity and privacy of witnesses and victims participating in the proceedings. The SC provides the necessary support, protection and practical arrangements and assistance required for their testimony. In 2023, the Witness Protection and Support Office facilitated the safe and timeline appearance of 60 witnesses before the SC: 21 in the Shala case, and 39 in the Thaçi et al case. Of the 60 witnesses, 8 testified via video-link and 33 witnesses who testified in court did so under protective measures. The Unit also addressed the security needs of witnesses who testified, and provided protection to witnesses and families assessed to be at elevated risk due to their testimony.

The SC Detention Facilities in The Hague are governed by the SC Detention Rules and regulations, following international standards and best practices, in order to ensure that detainees are held safely, and securely, while safeguarding their dignity and rights. At the end of 2023, the Detention Facilities accommodated ten detainees. The Facilities are monitored by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the SC Ombudsperson, both of which conducted independent inspections in 2023.

In 2023, the Detention Management Unit (DMU) managed over 1,000 in-person visits by family and other personal visitors to the Detention Facilities. In December 2023, the Trial Panel in the Thaçi et al case ordered certain restrictions to be placed on visits, telephone communications and correspondence of three of the Accused in the case, to ensure the integrity of the proceedings and compliance with the Detention Rules.

Outreach activities are central for the SC in order to be able to reach out to the public in Kosovo and the wider region. Events are organised regularly with young

people, students, legal practitioners, community leader, journalists and others in Kosovo. Since 2018, the SC outreach team has conducted 156 outreach events, reaching 3,500 people directly. In 2023, the team held 23 outreach meetings with a total of 485 participants. In addition, four video clips produced in 2022 and 2023 were widely broadcast on all main television stations in Kosovo, providing answers to frequently asked questions. To ensure journalists are kept up to date with judicial developments, the SC continued to hold weekly press briefings in 2023, where journalist can join online or in-person. The SC also organised a two-day training for 20 Kosovo journalists in The Hague, focused on neutral and objective trial reporting.

The SPO continued to move forward expeditiously in 2023. It opened two trials, litigated appeals in two cases, and arrested four persons for offences against the administration of justice. The SPO also continued to make evidence available to Defence Counsel. In addition, Ms Kimberly West, a former US federal prosecutor, succeeded Mr Jack Smith as Specialist Prosecutor. She was appointed on 2 June 2023, after a process organised by the EU, and took office on 18 October 2023.

By the end of the year, there were 12 Defence teams in SC proceedings, with a combined staff of 131 persons, including 12 Specialist Counsel, working vigorously to defend their clients.

EUROPEAN UNION FORCE OPERATION ALTHEA



Overview:

The European Union (EU) launched the European Union Force Althea (EUFOR ALTHEA) operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in December 2004. This military operation succeeded the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) and assumed responsibility for maintaining a safe and secure environment in BiH. EUFOR ALTHEA was established under the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) framework, which allows the EU to collaborate with partner nations on security challenges.

Since its inception, EUFOR ALTHEA has gradually transferred responsibilities to local authorities, following the principle of "local ownership." This aligns with BiH's aspirations for EU membership and reflects the growing capacity of BiH institutions.

EUFOR Operation Althea plays a critical role in supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina's path towards a secure and stable future, fostering its development and integration with the European Union.

Mandate:

On the basis of its executive mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, EUFOR is responsible for the implementation of the military annexes of the General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP), also known as the Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA).

EUFOR's primary aims remain as follows:

- support the overall EU comprehensive strategy for BiH;
- support BiH authorities in maintaining a SASE in the country;
- combined and collective training and exercises with the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH).



Since the mission started, the responsibility for the execution of many tasks has been handed over to the local authorities according to the principle of “local ownership” and in line with BiH’s path towards EU membership. Nevertheless, EUFOR promotes an environment in which the peace process can continue but retains full responsibility and authority to re-assume control if required.

Activities in 2023:

Support local authorities in maintaining a SASE:

- EUFOR monitors developments in BiH and maintains close liaison to local security providers to have full and timely situational awareness on security related issues. At the local level EUFOR is present through small teams of soldiers living in communities across the country (Liaison Observation Teams – LOTs). The EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN), based in Camp Butmir is deployable by land and air, equipped and trained to respond to different kinds of situations if required. EUFOR’s in-theatre personnel can be augmented at short-notice by Over-the-Horizon Reserve Forces from the EU and in coordination with NATO under the "Berlin Plus" arrangements.

Combined and Collective Training with the AFBiH:

- EUFOR continues to plan, organize, coordinate and conduct collective trainings with the AFBiH to improve the interoperability in peace support operations and for future international cooperation.

Supporting counter-proliferation, demilitarisation and demining:

- BiH still has large stockpiles of weapons, ammunition and mines left over from the war (1992-1995), many of which become more dangerous over time.
- EUFOR provides essential expertise, support, monitoring and mentoring to the ‘Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives (AWE) Masterplan’ aiming at the safe disposal and storage of AWE. EUFOR is a key contributor to the BiH Mine Action Strategy. It provides Subject Matter Expertise, supports the Demining Battalion of the AFBiH and educates over 15,000 vulnerable adults and children per year on the risks posed by mines.
- EUFOR undertakes a role in arms control by conducting verifications and inspections.



THE MEDITERRANEAN

EU NAVAL FORCE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN – OPERATION IRINI (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI)



Overview:

The European Union (EU) launched Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, named after the Greek word for "peace," in March 2020. This operation tackles the ongoing conflict in Libya by enforcing the United Nations arms embargo on the country. The embargo aims to prevent weapons from reaching Libya that could further fuel the violence. EUNAVFOR IRINI falls under the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), which allows the EU to take action on security challenges around the globe in support of partner countries.

Mandate:

EUNAVFOR MED IRINI operates in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya, utilizing a combination of aerial, satellite, and maritime resources to monitor the situation and inspect vessels suspected of carrying arms in violation of the embargo.

EUNAVFOR MED IRINI's core activities are detecting and deterring violations of the UN arms embargo, through a multi-pronged approach:

- **Inspections:** EUNAVFOR conducts inspections of vessels suspected of carrying arms in violation of the embargo. This can involve requesting information from the vessel's captain, boarding the vessel for physical inspection, or deploying surveillance assets to track its movements.
- **Monitoring:** The operation uses aerial and satellite imagery to monitor maritime activity off the Libyan coast. This allows them to identify suspicious vessels and track their movements.
- **Information Sharing:** EUNAVFOR MED IRINI works closely with other international actors involved in enforcing the arms embargo. They share information on potential violations and coordinate their efforts to ensure a comprehensive monitoring system.

Achievements:

Since its launch, EUNAVFOR MED IRINI has made significant progress in enforcing the UN arms embargo on Libya. Here are some notable achievements:

- **Inspections:** The operation has conducted hundreds of inspections of vessels in the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Diverted Vessels:** On several occasions, EUNAVFOR MED IRINI has diverted vessels suspected of carrying



- arms in violation of the embargo. These vessels were then directed to relevant authorities for further investigation.
- Enhanced Monitoring: The operation has improved the overall monitoring capabilities in the region, making it more difficult for illicit arms shipments to reach Libya.

While the conflict in Libya remains complex, EUNAVFOR MED IRINI plays a critical role in supporting the international community's efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

Activities:

- Boarded and inspected 26 suspect vessels.
- Seized three cargos assessed to be in violation of the UN arms embargo and diverted the vessels to a port of an EU Member State.
- Investigated 12,606 merchant vessels through request of information via radio calls (hailing).

- Visited 597 vessels upon their Masters' consent (so-called 'friendly approaches').
- Investigated 1,336 suspect flights.
- Monitored 25 airports and 16 ports.
- Provided 49 special reports to the UN Panel of Expert on Libya. Most of these referred to violations or possible violations of the arms embargo and oil smuggling activities in the west and in the east of the country.
- Issued 83 recommendations for inspection of suspect vessels in EU Member States' ports to the relevant Law Enforcement agencies, of which 65 were conducted.

These results have demonstrated IRINI's effectiveness and impartiality.

EU BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION IN LIBYA (EUBAM LIBYA)



Overview

EUBAM Libya supports the Libyan authorities in developing border management and security at the country's land, sea and air borders. Based on a non-executive mandate, EUBAM provides technical advice, capacity-building activities at the operational and technical levels and carries out projects, complemented as appropriate and on a case-by-case basis by specialised training. The Mission furthermore provides strategic advice where requested by the Libyan authorities.

Mandate

Established in 2013, EUBAM Libya contributes to enhance the capacity of the relevant Libyan authorities and agencies to manage Libya's borders, to fight against cross-border

crime, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and to counter terrorism.

The Mission mandate was revised as of 1 July 2023. The Mission supports the Libyan authorities responsible for border management, including in facilitating intra-agency, inter-agency and international cooperation as guiding principles of integrated border management. The Mission further supports the relevant Libyan authorities and agencies involved in the fight against cross-border crime, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and terrorism in line with international standards in these areas.

Achievements

- Implementation of relevant trainings, delivery of equipment and advice, refurbishment of vital infrastructures (e.g. Libyan Border Guards training centre and the General Administration of Security Operations (GASO) training facility) enabling participation of trainees from the East and the South of the country, thus expanding the Mission's footprint outside Tripoli.



- Support to the development of the Handbook for Maritime Operations in compliance with internationally recognised procedures and human rights standards that was finalised in May 2023.
- Support and coordination mechanisms between Libyan and international actors reinforced. The Mission has continued successful cooperation with the National Team for Counter Terrorism, by providing wide range capacity building activities and advice on criminal intelligence gathering, information exchange, and analysis at a national and international levels, improving the detection and analysis of terrorist threats and other cross-border crimes. EUBAM further supported Libyan authorities in drafting and implementing the National Counter-Terrorism (CT) Strategy.
- Libyan capacities were increased through a series of needs-based and essential capacity building measures, such as document security and criminal intelligence. Specific trainings were organised to ensure that human rights obligations are respected during border management activities.
- The Mission provided strategic advice trainings and delivery of IT equipment to support the National Counter Terrorism Team (NCTT) in establishing a CT Fusion Cell.
- EUBAM Libya is supporting the transformation of the Border Guards' Training Centre into a modern structure in order to boost operational capacities.
- The Mission continued to enhance the capability of the relevant Libyan Law Enforcement Agencies to respond to new challenges, with the planning and implementation of trainings: "Open Source investigation Techniques: Online Investigations against Cross Border Crimes."
- Training of Trainers (ToT) modules were included in most Mission training activities in order to promote local ownership and sustainability. The trainings included e.g. criminal intelligence and analysis, detecting forged documents, and use of legal terminology in English language. All trainings have promoted human rights principles while performing border management duties. In addition, separate trainings in human rights and international humanitarian law were organised.

Activities

- The Mission has continued to assess Libyan land borders in particular to the west (Border with Tunisia) and has started the implementation process of several projects, responding to the requests of support by the Libyan Government in securing Libyan frontiers.
- In the maritime domain, the capacities of the counterparts were enhanced in technical emergency casualties care. Trainings in the use of medical care equipment, life-saving techniques and strategies to provide best trauma care in emergency situations were delivered with the support of the Mission.



THE MIDDLE EAST

EUROPEAN UNION POLICE MISSION FOR THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES (EUPOL COPPS)



Overview

Established in 2005 following the Oslo Accords, EUPOL COPPS assists the Palestinian Civil Police and other Palestinian Authority institutions in establishing a sustainable and effective policing and wider criminal justice arrangements, working in accordance with principles of Palestinian ownership and closely with other EU actors as well as international partners.

Mandate

EUPOL COPPS assists the Palestinian Authority in building its institutions - focusing on reforms in the civilian security and justice sectors. The Mission promotes civilian police primacy and a sound legal framework as well as, the development of the Palestinian criminal justice sector, supporting counterparts in their efforts to operate in an efficient, accountable and transparent manner and in accordance with best international standards.

Achievements

- Establishment of a PCP Central Crisis Cell as a leading police actor in response to the developments post-7 October, with EUPOL COPPS supporting the PA interior ministry and PCP including at weekly advisory meetings with PCP counterparts;
- EUPOL COPPS-financed model police district project in Bethlehem district, as part of EUPOL COPPS efforts to support Palestinian districts through needs-based approaches in the field of the civilian security sector and the rule of law;
- First official meeting of the joint PCP-EUPOL COPPS Steering Committee, helping to facilitate planning of joint activities on community policing, countering of environmental crimes and much more;
- Formal launching of the Palestinian Police Women's Network -supported by EUPOL COPPS, with 25 female PCP officers;
- Advising on revision of the Penal Code;
- Support to improved police-prosecutor cooperation, including finalisation of an operating procedures manual on seized and lost items in the context of the police-prosecution implementation group.



Activities:

- Advising in the context of the security and justice sector working groups and related thematic working groups in Ramallah, which gather key actors in the Palestinian security and justice sectors together with EU, US, UK and other partners, e.g. covering the areas of anti-corruption, international cooperation, human rights and gender, oversight and accountability;
- Support to review of priorities of the justice sector working group, to help further streamline support in the areas of improved legislation and access to justice as well as efforts on a more independent, efficient and effective PA justice system;
- Support to the Palestinian criminal justice system, for example by advising on a standardised law-making process to help improve organisational aspects of related Palestinian institutions, coupled with advising to counterparts in the Palestinian female networks of lawyers, police, prosecutors and judges;
- Advising at the Police HQ in Ramallah and the Police Academy in Jericho on community and information-led policing concepts and updating of the PCP community policing strategic plan;
- Specific outreach activities focusing on community policing, for example in Tubas (northern West Bank) jointly with the PCP Media, PR and Community Policing Directorate to discuss best practices; in Dheisheh Refugee Camp (Bethlehem district) together with the PCP Community Policing Mobile Police Station crew; and in Abu Dis village (east of Jerusalem) with the Abu Dis private boarding school for children with special needs, including distribution of visibility items and as part of overall efforts to bridge gaps between Palestinian society and the PCP;
- Workshops/training courses for relevant PCP teams dealing with cybercrime and financial-economic investigations as well as collection and analysis of open-source information;
- Workshops/training courses with the Palestinian Public Prosecution Authority to formulate its strategic goals and interventions for the period 2024-2029; with staff of the PA justice ministry (legal affairs unit) to strengthen their role in policymaking (training-of-trainers programme); with legal personnel from PA institutions dealing with legislative drafting; and with law practitioners at the Palestinian Supreme Constitutional Court, to raise awareness of constitutional principles resulting from the rulings of the court;
- Workshops/training courses with the PA Council of Ministers on steps to further strengthen skills in mediation, conflict resolution and cross-sectoral coordination; with female prison officers at Palestinian correction and rehabilitation centres, covering sentence planning and more equal division of women and men within management; with the PCP Family and Juvenile Protection Department to help improve mental first aid and suicide prevention capability; with the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (gender coaching sessions) to implement recommendations from a previous gender audit; and with civil society organisations to promote increased citizen awareness about complaint's mechanisms and procedures.

EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR THE RAFAH CROSSING POINT (EUBAM RAFAH)



Overview

EUBAM Rafah was established in 2005, following the Oslo Accords as a concrete expression of the EU's support to the two-state solution. In 2007, following Hamas' takeover of the Gaza Strip, EUBAM Rafah suspended its operations at the Rafah crossing point. In its current stand-by mode, the Mission supports a 'Palestinian Authority (PA) Preparedness Project', in Jericho, aimed at enhancing capacity of the PA General Administration for Borders and Crossings to operate at best international standards. EUBAM Rafah maintains readiness to redeploy to the Rafah Crossing Point, together with the GABC, when conditions allow.

Mandate

EUBAM Rafah is foreseen as the EU Third Party presence at the Rafah Crossing Point on the Gaza-Egypt border in line with the Agreement on Movement and Access signed between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority in 2005. EUBAM Rafah is mandated (in operational mode) to monitor, verify and evaluate the PA's performance at the Rafah Crossing Point.

Achievements

- Continued implementation of the PA Preparedness Project together with the PA General Administration for Borders and Crossings in Jericho, maintaining regular contact with GABC counterparts also after 7 October;

- Support to a more efficient and accountable PA GABC, by means of advising and further equipment donations and restauration at the GABC Command and Control Centre and Training Centre in Jericho;
- Installation of the Closed-Circuit Television cameras at Al-Karameh Terminal in Jericho, supporting enhanced capabilities of GABC and related customs and intelligence agencies to counter smuggling and improved safety and security for staff and passengers;
- Provision of customs expertise to the project led by the EU Representation (EUREP), on establishment of a container terminal in the Jericho area for enhanced Palestinian trade with Jordan.

Activities

In support of the PA GABC, EUBAM Rafah provided:

- a leadership development course in cooperation with Riga Technical University in Latvia;
- a seminar on training strategy in cooperation with the EU Commission's TAIEX instrument (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange);
- an advanced training (second in a series) on conflict prevention and conflict management supported by German police experts;
- training sessions on countering trafficking of cultural property in cooperation with the Italian Carabinieri;
- a study visit to Budapest to identify areas of cooperation with Hungarian authorities and EU institutions.



EU ADVISORY MISSION IN IRAQ (EUAM IRAQ)

Overview

Peace and stability in Iraq are of major importance to the EU as a prerequisite for furthering bilateral ties and stability in the wider region. The contribution of EUAM Iraq is a key element for the implementation of this strategic objective and part of the EU overall strategy for Iraq. Since its establishment in 2017, EUAM Iraq has been supporting the reform of the Iraqi civilian security sector by providing strategic advice and expertise to Iraqi partners in close coordination with the EU Delegation and the wider international community in Iraq. In 2023, and despite the increased stability in Iraq since the taking of office of the federal government under Prime Minister Al-Sudani in October 2022, the domestic and regional situation remained challenging. Nevertheless, EUAM Iraq was able to advance on the implementation of its mandate.

Mandate

EUAM Iraq provides strategic advice and expertise to the Iraqi authorities on civilian aspects of Security Sector Reform (SSR) including the National Security Strategy, associated national strategies and other national security priorities. EUAM also analyses, assesses and identifies opportunities for further EU engagement at national, regional and provincial levels in support of civilian SSR. The Mission's advisory support covers i.a. institutional reform, human resource management and anti-corruption; command and control and crisis management; counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism; organised crime, cultural heritage protection and integrated border management including aspects of irregular migration. EUAM mainstreams gender and human rights into its activities, and also hosts civil society platforms.

Achievements

- The Mission's visibility has improved and EUAM Iraq has become a key international Security Sector Reform (SSR) partner in many areas.
- The Mission has demonstrated significant progress in its Integrated Approach, and has deepened its connection, understanding and complementarity with EU Member States and other key international partners.



- The Mission made tangible progress in improving national counterparts' understanding of comprehensive, democratic, and human rights-compliant approaches in civilian Security Sector Reform.

Activities

- The Mission advised the federal interior ministry towards more inclusive civilian SSR-related planning processes and increased capacity to plan efficient use of staffing resources. EUAM Iraq workshops have reached 170 emerging interior ministry leaders, supporting improved strategic human resources planning.
- The Mission finalised the scoping phase for the development of an Iraqi pilot national database for cultural heritage protection. Financed by Germany, the database will be a modular solution and will enable increased Iraqi investigative capabilities in tackling cultural heritage protection-related crimes and the financing of terrorism.
- The Mission advised on human rights-compliant policing of public protests and major events including the 2023 Arab Gulf Football Cup.
- The Mission hosted civil society platform events in Baghdad and Erbil, helping to create channels of communication between civil society and actors in the Iraqi internal security sector to promote democratic security governance in the country.
- The Mission promoted donor coordination in the Security Coordination Group, chaired by EUAM Iraq.





THE SAHEL

EU CAPACITY BUILDING MISSION IN MALI (EUCAP SAHEL MALI)



Overview

The European Union Capacity Building Mission in support of Security Sector Reform in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali) was established at the request of Malian government in 2015 to help “to restore and maintain State authority and legitimacy, constitutional and democratic order and the conditions for lasting peace throughout the territory of Mali by means of an effective redeployment of the administration”.

EUCAP Sahel Mali EUCAP works closely with the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, the Internal Security Forces, with a special focus on Malian Police and the Southern regions of Mali.

Mandate

EUCAP’s mandate is organised in three Lines of Operations: 1) Strengthening the ethical standards of the Internal Security Forces; 2) Strengthening their structural capacities; and 3) Strengthening their operational capacities.

EUCAP’s activities – strategic advice, training and projects – are streamlined along five thematic areas, prioritised both by the Malian counterparts and the EU: i/ civilian crisis management, ii/ integrated border management, iii/ strengthening relations between the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and the civilian population, iv/ access to justice and accountability, v/ developing national systems for training and human resources management. The promotion of human rights, gender equality and the rule of law is mainstreamed in all mission activities,

Achievements

In 2023, EUCAP reached some key milestones. Among them:

- Activities to support integrated border management saw good progress with the finalisation of the draft National Border Management Strategy and Action Plan for the Border Area Security Strategy 2024 – 2026. Trainings in numerous border management topics were provided to the ISF.
- Relations between the ISF and the civilian population were improved through the provision of holistic care to survivors of Gender-based violence, in the One Stop Centre in Bamako, as well as through training to ISF on human rights and gender equality, ethics and deontology.



- Justice and accountability continued to be prioritised. The Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, developed with EUCAP's support to the Ministry of Justice, were adopted by the Council of Ministers in October 2023. With EUCAP's support, the operationalisation of the General Directorate of Technical and Scientific Police advanced well, including the delivery of mobile laboratories and specialised trainings.
- Based on the increased demand for support in training and human resources management, EUCAP replicated for the Judiciary Police an archiving system previously provided to the General Directorate of the National Police. An intranet system for border authorities was further extended to integrate the Directorate of Border Police.
- While respecting the limitations decided by Member States, EUCAP Sahel Mali focused its training efforts on the National Police and to a lesser extent on the Gendarmerie and the National Guard. At least one Malian co-trainer was present in the majority of trainings delivered by the mission, who strives to achieve the desired end-state state: full autonomy in terms of training among the ISF. Human rights, gender and ethics, as well as border security, community policing and interaction with the public, forensics, crime scene management were some of the most important topics in training.

Activities

- Civilian crisis management: EUCAP supported the rehabilitation and provision of equipment to the Crisis and Disaster Management Centres (CECOGEC) in Segou and Koulikoro, as well as the establishment of a radio transmission network linking the Regional Crisis Centre in Sikasso to the National Crisis Centre in Bamako.
- Border management: EUCAP provided technical and financial support in the drafting process of the National Border Management Strategy and the Action Plan for the

Border Area Security Strategy 2024 – 2026. Furthermore, constructions works advanced at the Integrated Border Security Centre in Kouremale (border with Guinea), a joint project with the EU Delegation.

- Relations between ISFs and the population: In September 2023, the National Police appointed a civil society focal point, and a similar designation was foreseen for the Gendarmerie. They serve as first point of contact with civil society and play a key role in strengthening relations with the population. Support to the National Security Sector Reform continued with the launching of Security Advisory Committees (CCS) in six communes of Bamako. A Standard Operating Procedure on a Human Rights Due Diligence mechanism was adopted enabling risk assessments on potential human rights violations for all EUCAP activities in support of the ISF.
- Access to justice and accountability: The Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code produced with EUCAP support were adopted by the Council of Ministers in October 2023. EUCAP also provided technical expertise in drafting the law against slavery by descent.
- Human Rights: All mission trainings include modules on human rights and gender equality. In September 2023, EUCAP together with the National Human Rights Commission, organised a four-day human rights and gender equality training in Sikasso.

Integrated Approach: EUCAP pursued cooperation and coordination with other EU entities and Member States present in Mali. Liaison with EUDEL continued, including on integrated border management and support to the Technical and Scientific Police. The Mission continued to seek synergies with the UN Country Team in Mali, and maintained a steady working relationship with EUTM Mali.

EUTM MALI: EUROPEAN UNION TRAINING MISSION IN MALI (EUTM MALI)



Mandate

Following a request of the Malian Government and based on UNSCR 2085 EU MS agreed on the establishment of a military mission to contribute to the training of the Malian Armed Forces. Council Decision 2013 /34/CFSP in January 2013 created EUTM Mali under the framework of the EU Common Security and Defense Policy. Follow on Council decisions evolved EUTM Mali towards its current nature.

Mandate 5 was politically approved on 23 March 2020 and extended the mission until 18 May 2024. It expressed a more ambitious approach, notably the extension to G5S countries and a significant increase in resources.

In May 2022 a mid-term Strategic Review (SR) took place that resulted in significant, notably reductions of personnel and activities. A revised MPLAN received PSC approval in October that year.

Overview of the mission

EUTM Mali focused their activities on support to Malian Armed Forces within the Mission Area and until the end of Mandate 5 on strategic advice and education only.

All operational and non-operational activities are temporarily and reversibly suspended while maintaining the capacity to resume when conditions are met and PSC (Political and Security Committee EU) so decides, to support the creation of sustainable and capable armed forces under democratic control and in line with international standards.

Achievements

Since its inception, the mission trained more than 12.000 soldiers and helped the Malian Armed Forces at all levels.

Activities

In 2023, EUTM Mali contributed with several education activities and regular strategic advice.



EUROPEAN UNION CAPACITY BUILDING MISSION IN NIGER (EUCAP SAHEL NIGER)



Overview

Launched in August 2012, EUCAP Sahel Niger supports the Nigerien authorities and the three Internal Security Forces - Police, Gendarmerie and National Guard - in developing their capacities to fight terrorism and organised crime, and to counter irregular migration and associated criminality. The Mission aims at providing holistic support to the Nigerien partners by combining training, equipment, infrastructure and strategic advice.

Following the military coup of July 2023, EUCAP Sahel Niger had to stop all operational activities. In December 2023, the Nigerien de facto authorities revoked the Status of Mission Agreement (SOMA) of the Mission, and EUCAP Sahel Niger

subsequently started to withdraw completely from the area of operations after more than 12 years of presence in Niger.

Mandate

EUCAP Sahel Niger has a non-executive mandate to enhance the capacities of the Internal Security Forces in fighting terrorism and organised crime, as well as combating irregular migration and associated criminality. The Mission further facilitates national, regional and international coordination in these domains. EUCAP promotes human rights standards and gender equality in all its activities.

Achievements

In 2023, the following achievements were obtained before the military coup:

- Mobile units: At the time of the coup, after having received training, equipment and advice, the third mobile



unit for the National police was fully operational, but infrastructure work in the foreseen area of deployment were still ongoing. The Mission also supported the establishment of the first mobile unit of the National Guard via training and advice, whilst the equipment was provided through an EU project.

- The elevation of EUCAP’s mobile unit concept, including a trust-building component between the forces and the local population, to the national level continued. EUCAP experts and representatives of the three internal security forces mapped out detailed plans for structure, training, equipment and logistics, creating a uniform base model suitable for all three forces. This work culminated in June, when a national committee officially adopted this model as a basis for the creation of a total of 12 such mobile units before the end of 2025 with the aim of better covering the long borders of the country, while reinforcing the presence of the state and pushing back on criminal and terrorist groups in Niger’s hotspot areas.
- Interoperability: EUCAP Sahel Niger continued to support the operationalisation of regional crisis centres across the country and supported the regional security councils charged with crisis management. The aim was to improve coordination and cooperation among the three Internal Security Forces, as well as their cooperation with the Nigerien Armed Forces and other state authorities, particularly relevant in case of a major attack or disaster. By July 2023, seven of the eight regional crisis centres were fully operational and extensive training and exercises had been completed for four of the eight security councils, helping the authorities to employ their resources in the most efficient manner.

Activities

Before the military coup of July 2023 and the EU and ECOWAS condemnation, the following activities were performed:

- Civilian approach on counter-terrorism: EUCAP organised a regional conference on counter-terrorism to enhance the civilian approach to this subject, encompassing intelligence, investigations, prosecution, but also prevention and de-radicalisation. Recommendations issued from this conference were shared locally, nationally and even regionally.

- Mobile units: training, advice, equipment and infrastructure to the third mobile unit for the National police in the region of Tillabéri and support to the creation of the first mobile units of the Garde nationale through training and advice. Support to the development of a national concept for the establishment of mobile units in all three Internal Security Forces. Implementation of a trust-building programme to build confidence between the population and the Internal Security Forces in areas where mobile units are deployed.
- Border management: In addition to the mobile units, Nigerien borders management structures received support in detecting document fraud and enhancing border management procedures. The working arrangement with Frontex on exchange of information and further support to Nigerien borders management was in the early stages of its implementation.
- Interoperability: crisis management exercises were carried out with regional authorities, the Internal Security and Defence Forces to operationalise the crisis centres and improve interoperability. Support was provided to interoperability between the Internal Security Forces in the domain of logistics. Supporting the development and implementation of regional security plans in the regions of Agadez, Tillabéri and Diffa to improve security and interoperability.
- Counter-terrorism: Supporting the establishment of a provost mechanism in the Nigerien Armed Forces to ensure the legal pursuit of terrorist and other criminal acts in order to prevent impunity. Holding regular exchanges with Europol with a view to establishing structured cooperation based on a to-be-negotiated Working Arrangement. Enhancing the capacities of investigators in the field of counter-terrorism and other forms of organised crime, including trafficking of drugs. Organising with the Nigerien authorities a regional conference on counter-terrorism to enhance the civilian approach to this subject, encompassing intelligence, investigations, prosecution, but also prevention and de-radicalisation.
- Human rights: human rights and gender related trainings were carried out for the benefit of the Internal Security Forces and judicial authorities.
- Human resources: Support was provided for the professionalization and modernisation of the human resources management of the Internal Security Forces.

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY PARTNERSHIP MISSION IN NIGER (EUMPM NIGER)



Mandate

The EU Military Partnership Mission in Niger is aimed at contributing to enhancing the military capacity of the Nigerien Armed forces in order to support Niger in its fight against terrorist armed groups in compliance with Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. To do so, EUMPM Niger support would be encompassed within the overarching Nigerien-led capacity-building plan.

Overview of the mission

(EUMPM Niger) is one of the tools of the EU Integrated Approach in Niger in conjunction with support to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and dialogue support, as well as development cooperation and in parallel with humanitarian assistance. This CSDP mission represents a structured EU response and offers a sustainable platform to support the Nigerien armed forces capacity building. The mission responded to the Nigerien request of a dedicated CSDP mission whose objectives are defined on the basis of Nigerien needs and for Nigeriens.

In 2023, EUMPM Niger intended to support the Nigerien armed forces by contributing to the Nigerien capacity-building plan through the establishment of a Centre de Formation des Techniciens des Armées, provision of specialized training to the armed forces specialists, including Gendarmerie ones, and support to the creation of a new Battalion, with a priority expressed for a communication and command support battalion. To respond to the three-pronged approach requested by the Nigerien authorities, an EPF assistance measure would complement the Mission to provide the equipment and possibly infrastructure necessary to fulfil the operational requirements of the newly created Battalion.

Achievements

After a swift start early 2023, The European Union immediately suspended all security and defence cooperation following the coup d'état in July 2023.

Activities

At the end of 2023, all EUMPM personnel was re-based to Europe.

REGIONAL ADVISORY AND COORDINATION CELL (RACC)



Overview

The Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell, was established in 2019 and supports G5S structures and countries to enhance regional cooperation and operational capabilities in the field of defence and security, in compliance with international law, human rights and the EU strategic approach to women peace and security. RACC has a network of Internal Security and Defence Experts embedded in EU Delegations of the G5 Sahel (G5S), an institutional framework for coordination on security matters grouping Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.

RACC facilitates and coordinates the organisation of regional training courses delivered by the civilian and military CSDP Missions in the Sahel to the defence and security forces, with a focus on the Joint Force and its Police Component, as well as Chad and Mauritania national forces.

In July 2023, the RACC was refocussed to pursue a national approach per country, to reflect the changes in the G5 Sahel regional organisation.

Mandate

The regionalisation of CSDP action in the Sahel is an initiative combining civilian and military activities aiming at enhancing the cross-border cooperation capabilities of the five G5S countries on security and defence issues.

The strategic objectives for the RACC are:

- To enhance regional cooperation on border cooperation and exchange of information in coordination with the CSDP action in the region ¹;

1 Since July 2023, this strategic objective is no longer in effect.



- To support the Department of Security and Defence of the Executive Secretary of the G5 Sahel and its coordination with the G5 Sahel countries;
- To reinforce the security and defence capacity of the G5 Sahel's countries;
- To support the EU Delegation, the Secretariat for the Security and Stability in the Sahel (P3S), the EUSR for the Sahel and the Coalition for the Sahel in the implementation of the EU strategy for the Sahel.

Achievements

- At regional level, the RACC advised the Département Defense et Sécurité (DDS)/SE-G5S on defence and internal security matters. The RACC has advised the DDS of the Executive Secretariat of the G5S to establish and to develop regional mechanisms in the area of border cooperation, exchange of information and the judiciary to address the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime affecting the countries of the region.
- Implementation of the N'Djamena roadmap. The RACC contributed to the implementation of the N'Djamena roadmap of the Coalition by feeding and providing inputs to the P3S and prioritising actions.
- Provision of expertise to EU financed programmes. The RACC security and defence experts deployed in the EU Delegations of the G5S countries, provided their security and defence expertise on the EU projects, and contributed to the needs identification for the European Peace Facility instruments.
- Libya-Sahel Coordination Forum (LSCF) / One Desert Initiative. Following a workshop organised by the RACC in Nouakchott (May 2023), the six participating countries (G5S countries and Libya) agreed on the need

to develop tailor made roadmaps of activities for each country. Different meetings were held to support national authorities of the G5S countries to set up their roadmaps.

Activities:

- Support to the Directorate for Security and Defence of the Executive Secretariat of the G5S and its member to establish and improve the coordination mechanisms such the security information exchange platform (PCMS) and the management of cross-border areas in partnership with UNODC, GIZ, PAGES2 and INTERPOL.
- Organisation of the Workshop "Working Together for a Safer and Prosperous Region" (Nouakchott – 10/11 May 2023 in the framework of the LSCF/ One Desert Initiative, with the support of the EU Special Representative for the Sahel.
- In the framework of the One Desert Initiative, high level and technical visits were held by the RACC in the G5S countries to support the national authorities to discuss their proposals for the roadmap and to ensure the proper appropriation of the various ministries.
- The RACC organised trainings for security and defence forces, regionally and nationally, with the support of the Sahel CSDP Missions (EUCAP Sahel Mali, EUCAP Sahel Niger and EUTM Mali), UNODC and UNHCHR.
- Liaison with EUTM Mali on the preparation and implementation of trainings for the benefit of the G5S Joint Force, including the operational training before deployment (POAD) of its HQ.
- Production and delivery of training kits on the module "judicialization of military operations" to the G5S Defence College in Nouakchott. Follow-up and technical assistance to the implementation of the EU financed programme in support of the Defence College.

EUROPEAN UNION SECURITY AND DEFENCE INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES OF THE GULF OF GUINEA (EU GOG SDI)



Overview

Gulf of Guinea is a key geopolitical area for shipping oil extracted in the Niger delta, as well as goods to and from central and southern Africa. It is also an important gateway for organised crime, including illicit trafficking. The EU Security and Defence Initiative in support of West African countries of the Gulf of Guinea (EU GoG SDI) complements the already ongoing EU support, including on maritime security and humanitarian and development cooperation programmes to the benefit of the populations.

EU GoG SDI marks a milestone for CSDP Missions. It illustrates the EU's capacity to respond to partners' needs with customised expertise and innovative, modular and flexible instruments.

Mandate

EU GoG SDI was officially launched on 11 December 2023 with a two-year mandate. A command and support cell is located in Brussels. EU GoG SDI aims to empower Benin, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Togo to strengthen their security and defence capabilities, to respond to security threats and to tackle the spill-over of insecurity from the Sahel to the West African coastal states. The Civilian Crisis Management Advisers are collocated within the EU Delegation of these 4 countries.

The Initiative, composed of a civilian pillar and a military pillar with a limited standing footprint on the ground, should enable the EU to deliver tailored support to partners based on their identified and formulated needs. It should also provide expertise and modular instruments in a timely manner.

In the initial phase, the advisors should set up a network of contacts with national authorities to identify concrete needs and design advisory or training projects. EU experts and/or short-term training teams will be called on a temporary basis to fulfil specific partner requests.





THE HORN OF AFRICA

EUROPEAN UNION NAVAL FORCE OPERATION ATALANTA (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA)



Overview:

The European Union Naval Force Operation ATALANTA (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA) is a military mission deployed in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean. It was launched in 2008 as part of the EU's Naval Diplomacy for the Indo-Pacific, supporting the Coastal States in the combined effort for peace, stability and maritime security.

EUNAVFOR ATALANTA falls under the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), which allows the EU to take action on security challenges around the globe in support of partner countries.

Mandate:

ATALANTA's core missions are to contribute to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali Coast, and to protect World Food Programme and other vulnerable vessels sailing in the Area of Operations. Over time, the mandate of EUNAVFOR has been adapted to reflect the evolving situation at sea and the increased presence of the International Community in Somalia.

On 12 December 2022, Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/2441 amended ATALANTA's tasks as follows:

Executive tasks:

- PROTECT World Food Program and other Vulnerable Shipping;
- DETER, PREVENT and REPRESS piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Area of Operation;
- CONTRIBUTE to the DISRUPTION of drug trafficking and weapons trafficking.

Non-executive tasks:

- CONTRIBUTE to the monitoring of narcotics drugs trafficking, weapons trafficking, suspected IUU fishing and charcoal illicit trade in the Area of Operation within existing means and capabilities;
- CONTRIBUTE to the EU integrated approach to Somalia and the relevant activities of the international community, helping to address the root causes of piracy and its network, upon request and within existing means and capabilities;
- SUPPORT other EU missions, programs and instruments in Somalia within existing means and capabilities. In

particular coordinated closely with EUTM Somalia, EUCAP Somalia and Coordinated Maritime Presences in the North Western Indian Ocean;

- SUPPORT the promotion of the overall regional maritime security architecture, the relevant programmes implemented by the Commission within existing means and capabilities and to reinforce the already developed links with the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre in Madagascar and the Regional Operational Coordination Centre in Seychelles;
- COOPERATE with operation AGENOR and develop further synergies with European-led Maritime Situation Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz within its means and capabilities and the limits of this new mandate.

Achievements:

Data collated since 2008 demonstrate that EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, in co-operation with her counter-piracy partners, has become highly effective in preventing attacks before they happen.

Taken together, intelligence-led operations, a robust and proactive stance, as well as the continued effort to impress upon the maritime industry and the merchant community the importance of self-protection measures, have decreased the success rate of those attacks. At the height of piracy in January 2011, 736 hostages and 32 ships were being held by pirates. Since its launch in 2008 as the first EU naval operation, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA:

- Holds a 100% success rate in protecting WFP vessels delivering humanitarian aid to internally displaced and refugees in Somalia;
- Ensures the protection of vulnerable vessels within the Area of Operations;
- Deters, prevents and represses acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia;
- Cooperates and responds to illicit maritime flows, including illicit trade financing terrorism;
- Supports the EU Integrated Approach for Somalia and the Horn of Africa together with its two EU sister missions, EUCAP Somalia and EU TM Somalia, the EU Delegation

to Somalia and EU Special Representative to the Horn of Africa;

- Acts as a fundamental tool in the EU's Naval Diplomacy for the Indo-Pacific;
- Cooperates and supports all international organisations, naval forces and independent deployers present in the Area of Operations, as CMF;
- Provides a unique legal framework to transfer pirates to regional states for their prosecution.

Moreover, EUNAVFOR has conducted and supported numerous Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) rescue missions in the area, helping local, regional and international trading and fishing vessels in distress.

Activities in 2023:

- 02 Feb 2023, ATALANTA OPCDR met Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Mr. Kitack Lim, at IMO Headquarters in London (UK).
- 02 March 2023. The first narcotics interdiction in 2023. A two-action operation is conducted, seizing more than 1 ton of narcotics.
- 15 March 2023. The Administrative Arrangement for Communication & Coordination between EUNAVFOR and the Japan's Self-Defence Forces is signed in Tokyo (Japan).
- 24 March 2023. First EU-US naval exercise in the Indo-Pacific between EUNAVFOR ships and the USS PAUL HAMILTON, 5th US-Fleet.
- 26 May 2023. During a regular EUNAVFOR patrol to provide maritime security off the coast of Oman, La Fayette-class frigate SURCOUF of the French Navy captured more than two tons of narcotics.
- 25 Jun 2023. First Joint Activity at Sea involving EUNAVFOR assets and Jordan Royal Naval Forces conducted in the Red Sea.
- 03, 07 & 08 Aug 2023. The European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) Operation ATALANTA and the European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP

- Somalia) jointly conducted training exercises with Somali maritime security forces.
- 09 Aug 2024. Joint activities at sea between EUNAVFOR Flagship ITS DURAND DE LA PENNE and the Indian destroyer INS VISAKHAPATNAM.
 - The "ALDABRA II" exercise was carried out in Seychelles from 19th to 23rd September.
 - 06 Oct 23. First ATALANTA OPCDR's official visit to Egypt. Engagement with Commander of the Egyptian Navy Lieutenant General Ashraf Ibrahim Atwa Megahed, together with the EU Ambassador to Egypt HE Christian Berger.
 - 23 Nov 2023 - Operation ATALANTA celebrated the handover ceremony of command from the former Commander, Vice Admiral José María Núñez Torrente, to the current Commander, Vice Admiral Ignacio Villanueva Serrano.
 - 30 Nov 2023. EUNAVFOR ATALANTA successfully tackled an alleged piracy-related incident involving the Iranian-flagged fishing boat "ALMERAJ 1" off the coast of Somalia.
 - 08 Dec 2023. Operation ATALANTA celebrated the 15th anniversary of its inception. For 15 years, it has fought piracy and provided maritime security in its Area of Operation.



EUROPEAN UNION CAPACITY BUILDING MISSION IN SOMALIA (EUCAP SOMALIA)



Overview

The European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP) was established in 2012 non-executive CSDP mission to assist the Somali Federal Government and Federal States to strengthen Somali maritime security and police capacity. This includes building a sustainable Somali-owned response to the security challenges, as well as strengthening State legitimacy. Furthermore, the Mission contributes to the EU's overall political objectives in Somalia, and to the EU's goals in the Horn of Africa, by enhancing regional cooperation on peace and stability. EUCAP operates in Mogadishu and the Federal Member States of Puntland and Somaliland.

EUCAP Somalia works with other EU actors present in the country or offshore, including the military focused European Union Training in Mission, the European Naval Force Operation ATALANTA, the EU Delegation, the European Union Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, EU Commission-funded Programmes and Member States.

Mandate

The Mission maintains a three-pillar approach, which consists of (1) capacity building on the coast guard functions of the maritime police units in and around the Mogadishu, Berbera and Bossaso ports; (2) development of the police sector, including the robust police force, the Federal Darwish, strengthening the INTERPOL National Central Bureau and enhancing the Somali Police Force command and control capacity; and (3) promoting the rule of law and providing capacity building on police-prosecutor cooperation and legislative drafting in the field of criminal justice.

Achievements

Maritime Domain

- Support to the fight against Irregular, Unreported and Unregulated fishing and contribution to the improvement of maritime security in Somalia, building the integrated fisheries management system and advising on the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Resources restructuring.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Ports and Maritime Transport and the Ministry of Internal Security on the use of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre at the Somali Police Force Maritime Police Unit premises at Mogadishu Port
- Support to the Maritime Crimes Unit of the Somali Attorney General's Office in internal procedures and maritime crimes investigations and an internship program for young lawyers.
- Design of the training plan for fisheries inspections;
- Development of Somaliland's Coast Guard capabilities in the area of maritime domain awareness, in particular to tackle environmental and medical incidents;
- Establishment of the Somaliland Coast Guard's Mobile Training Unit, based on a 'Training of Trainers' concept;
- Somaliland Coast Guard operational since they have started cooperation with Djibouti counterparts and further benefited from EUCAP trainings on anti-corruption, human rights, mechanics, safety at sea, international maritime regulations, and fire protection.
- Training and equipment of the Puntland Maritime Police Force - Maritime Police Unit enhancing skills to execute maritime law enforcement duties at sea.
- Increase of the Puntland Maritime Police Force Amphibious Boat Squadron capabilities to perform law enforcement operations at the sea, civilian oversight structure - established, and training on criminal investigation;

Police Domain

- Conclusion of the Strategic plan of the Ministry of Internal Security;
- Improvement of Somalia's international judicial cooperation and implementation of international obligations, including in the area of maritime pollution prevention;
- Increase of the Somali Police Force operational planning, command, control and communications capability, improvement of the Police operational management of security incidents in Mogadishu, and delivery of anti-corruption training;



- Contribution to the Somali Police Force officers' training jointly with the EUTM Somalia training the Somali National Army;
- Delivery of medical awareness training courses for the Federal Darwish and the Somali Police Force officers;
- Provision of recommendations on the draft Federal Police Act, including advise on how to effectively incorporate the Federal Darwish concept as well as human rights and use of force principles.
- Delivery of a gap analysis on the Criminal Procedure Code (1963), which is currently under review and a detailed analysis of the draft Federal Antipiracy Bill.
- Improvement of the ability of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau to exchange information with its sub offices.

Activities:

- Preparations of a master plan for a new headquarters building for the Banadir Police;
- Joint trainings and exercises involving maritime law enforcement agencies and EUNAVFOR Operation Atalanta, the EU co-funded Joint Police Programme and the Red Sea Programme.
- Training/exercises with CRIMARIO II programme on the Indian Ocean Regional Information Sharing platform;
- Development of the Puntland Maritime Police Force Maritime Police Unit coast guard functions, focusing on law enforcement operations at sea;
- Cooperation with the European Gendarmerie Force, Italian Training Mission in Djibouti, Swedish Civil Contingency Agency, and the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia.
- Interaction with the Somali Navy and Coast Guard started and the first training on essential maritime skills.

EUROPEAN UNION TRAINING MISSION IN SOMALIA (EUTM SOMALIA)



Mandate

In its 8th Mandate, the EUTM Somalia contributed in 2023 to building up the Somali Security Forces (SSF) accountable to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), in line with Somali needs and priorities. Providing strategic level advice to Somali authorities within the Security Institutions in the Mogadishu Area as well as specific mentoring, advice and capacity building in the training domain.

Overview of the mission

The European Union Training Mission in Somalia (EUTM-S) was launched on 7 April 2010, since then its Mandate has been extended seven times, with changes reflecting circumstances on the ground. Due to the political and security situation in Somalia at the time, the Mission initially conducted training in Uganda. This 1st Mandate (2010) was focused on tactical training up to platoon level. The 2nd mandate (2011) was also focused on tactical training but up to company level, introducing specialists training and some train the trainers. The 3rd Mandate (2013) contained a significant change in location relocating the Mission Headquarters in Mogadishu and in focus, with the addition of strategic advisory and mentoring activities to complement the training role. The 4th Mandate (2015) introduced as new tasks the mentoring at the training center, whilst maintaining its training capability focused on leadership and specialized courses defined jointly with the Somali authorities. The Mission also increased the focus of its advisory component on building long term capability and capacity within the Somali Ministry of Defense (MoD) and SNA General Staff (GS). The 5th Mandate (2017) kept the trace of the precedent Mandate adding the role of mentoring J7 GS. The 6th Mandate introduced the idea of Somali Owned Training System

and opened the door to extend the actions to the sectors. The 7th Mandate started on 01 January 2021 keeping the main tasks introduced since 2015 but putting the focus on specialized training and decentralized activities. We are currently in the 8th Mandate, which began on 1st January 2022 and will end on 31st December 2024.

Achievements

The mission trained more than 9 000 soldiers, and is in line with Somali needs and priorities. The mission increased its activities in 2023 by the requests received and exploited. EUTM Somalia continued to support SNAF efforts in its development of the Somali Owned Training System (SOTS) by providing Train-the-Trainers and Mobile Training Team courses.

Activities

EUTM-S personnel, in liaison with Comprehensive Approach to Security (CAS) Strand 2A partners, ATMIS, UNSOM and other international partners played an active role in supporting the Somali military authorities in the design and development of a Somali owned training system. During the 8th Mandate the Training Team (TT) primarily delivered specialized training courses to enhance enabling SNA and Somali Police Forces capabilities, Trainer the Trainers (TtT) courses and staff and leadership courses up to Brigade Commander Level. It also provided advice and mentoring to General Dhabagaban training Centre (GDTC) Commander and their staff. Furthermore, the team mentored the SNA planning branch. The Advisory Team (AT), tasked to provide strategic and operational advice to the Somali MoD and SNAF General Staff, supporting the establishment of MoD oversight of SSF, contributing to build an effective SNA GS to plan, supported SNA in Somalia Transition Plan and coordinated with the International Community through CAS Strand 2A.

EUTM-S also provided support to other EU and international actors in the implementation of their respective mandates.



CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

EUROPEAN TRAINING MISSION IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (EUTM RCA)



Mandate

The mandate consists in the support of the CAR authorities in the preparation and implementation of the upcoming Security Sector Reform by assisting the FACA to manage their situation and to build the capacity and quality needed to meet the goal of a future modernized, effective, ethnically balanced and democratically accountable FACA. EUTM RCA will deliver strategic advice to CAR government and military and security authorities, education of FACA officers and NCOs as well as specialists, training to FACA and military assistance (including non-executive accompaniment) to FACA regional headquarters and units at Battalion HQ level at their garrisons within the territory of the CAR in order to contribute to the overall locally owned SSR process coordinated by MINUSCA.

Overview of the mission

As an integral part of the EU's integrated approach that encompasses political, security, humanitarian, and development actions, EUTM RCA was born from the achievements of EUFOR RCA and EUMAM RCA. The European Union Training Mission in Central African Republic (EUTM- RCA) was launched on 16 July 2016 after a Central African Government request. After a first extending from 2018 to 2020, the European Union Council

extended the mandate of the mission, until 19 September 2024. The mission contributes to the defence sector reform within the framework of a wider Security Sector Reform (SSR), in close coordination with other EU and International Support Missions [especially the EU Delegation, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM)]. The mission supports the Central African authorities and is engaged in three domains: strategic advice, operational training and education. The mission has a not executive mandate and is not engaged in combat operations.

Achievements

In 2023 the mandate was renewed in September for another 12 months.

Activities

Since its launch in July 2016, EUTM RCA trained and educated almost 9500 FACA personnel. EUTM RCA has engaged in the training of FACA units and their leaders, and new recruits (including ex-combatants reintegrated in FACA after completion of vetting and DDR process). Before 2023, of the training activities were suspended as an operational measure by EU Member States as a result of Russian presence. The activities in 2023 focussed on strategic advice and education. Troop Contributing Nations were ready to re-deploy at short notice [within 30 days], once conditions allowed to restart the suspended training activities. This did not materialize in 2023.



EUROPEAN UNION ADVISORY MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (EUAM RCA)



Overview

EUAM RCA supports the Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Central African Republic and provides advice at strategic level to the Ministry of Interior and Public Security and to the Internal Security Forces (ISF). It advises on their transformation into a coherent security provider and their redeployment to all parts of the country. The Mission also places emphasis on developing adequate EU strategic communication to counter hybrid threat. Overall, EUAM RCA contributes to creating the conditions for the restoration of state authority throughout the country.

Mandate

The Mission was established in 2020 and advises the Ministry of Interior and Public Security (MISP) and the Internal Security Forces (ISF) at strategic level to support their sustainable transformation into a coherent and efficient security actor. The Mission works in close coordination with the Delegation of the European Union, its sister Mission EUTM RCA, international actors such as MINUSCA and the civil society. EUAM RCA contributes to broadening the scope of security to all populations by prioritising the protection of civilians, gender equality, human rights and international humanitarian law.

Achievements

- Creation of a regulatory framework to reform the Internal Security Forces: The Mission advised the government in



the new Strategy for security sector reform and National security policy. In total, over 35 legislative and regulatory texts have been finalised, approved and in course of validation.

- Strengthening interoperability: EUAM RCA – MINUSCA are jointly working in favour of operational and interoperable capacities of the forest agents with the rest of the Internal Security Forces. With the Customs Service, the Mission contributed to enhancing the integrity and professionalism of customs agents, with the revision of the Code of ethics for Customs, aligning it with international norms.
- Penitentiary reform: EUAM supported the work of MINUSCA in advancing on the implementation of the justice sector policy, particularly the security and demilitarisation of prisons. The Mission also facilitated a training provided by the Swedish Prisons and Probation Service (SPPS) in the field of negotiation techniques in crisis situations in prisons.
- Integrated approach: EUAM collaborates closely with the EU Delegation (EUDEL) and the EU Training Mission (EUTM) to ensure a unified and impactful engagement across security, justice and border management domains. This synergy has resulted in a concentrated focus on justice sector reform and the development of a strategic Action Plan for national borders.

Activities

- Contribution to the law enforcement reform, through the finalisation of three critical implementing decrees of the National Police and their submission to the Presidency, allowing a robust legal framework for operational integrity and accountability.

- Support to the National Gendarmerie.
- Fostering respect for Human Rights and gender equality: The Mission ensured systematic mainstreaming of human rights and gender equality issues and organized workshops and round tables to bring together the ISF and civil society (e.g. Platform of Religious Confessions of CAR, Network of Organizations of Young African Leaders of UN, National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Network of Women Police Officers).
- The Mission continued to support the operational capacities of the Internal Security Forces and other actors operating in the field of security. In partnership with the Ministry of Water and Forests, EUAM welcomed the approval of the law on the status of forest rangers, launching awareness-raising sessions to combat poaching and illegal trafficking.
- Integrated approach: EUAM RCA worked in complementarity with EUTM RCA and the EU Delegation in Bangui. The three EU entities develop, adapt and implement a joint strategic communication. EUAM RCA also cooperates closely with the UN family on the ground, particularly MINUSCA – in the field of penitentiary administration and the establishment of mixed border posts.
- Structural reforms: The first Steering Committee (COPIL) held on 12 October 2023 was chaired by President Touadera. The Committee aims at enabling a regular exchange on EUAM RCA mandate implementation and ensure local buy in. EUAM planned two follow up meetings of the technical committee, in November 2023 respectively March 2024.

EUROPEAN UNION TRAINING MISSION IN MOZAMBIQUE (EUTM MOZAMBIQUE)



Mandate

EUTM Mozambique will support the capacity building of Mozambique Armed Forces (FADM) by training selected units (11 Coys and C2 structures, up to Battalion level, adapted for deployment and implementation of a sustainable operational cycle), to compose a Quick Reaction Force, in order to develop the necessary and sustainable capacities to restore safety and security in Cabo Delgado. Selected units: 5 Fuzileiros (N) and 6 Commandos Force (A) Coys.

Overview of the mission

Cabo Delgado is the northernmost province of Mozambique. Since 2017, the province has been affected by increased levels of violence linked to actions by armed groups and

attacks claimed by the Islamic State. As a result, the security and humanitarian situation has deteriorated, causing suffering for the Cabo Delgado people and threatening the stability of the area and its economic development.

The European Union has launched a military training mission in Mozambique (EUTM Mozambique) following a request from the Mozambican government to support their armed forces through a training and capacity building mission. The mission provides training and support to the Mozambican armed forces to protect the civilian population and restore security in the Cabo Delgado province. It has a non-executive mandate and will end two years after having reached full operational capability.

The mission counts on additional support under the European Peace Facility (EPF) aimed at providing non-lethal equipment to the units trained by EUTM. On 21 April 2022, the EU adopted a decision amending the assistance measure for support to the Mozambican Armed Forces under the European Peace Facility (EPF) adopted in November 2021, adding a further amount of €45 million.



This additional support brings overall EPF support for Mozambique to €89 million in total. The assistance measure aims to strengthen EU support for capacity building and the deployment of the units of the Mozambican Armed Forces trained by the EU Training Mission in Mozambique (EUTM Mozambique). This support consists of the provision of integrated packages of equipment and supplies in conjunction with EU training missions. The aim is to ensure that the training is as efficient and effective as possible, enabling EUTM-trained troops to be fully operational and self-sufficient upon deployment. Through this assistance measure, the EU will finance equipment to benefit the eleven Mozambican companies to be trained by the EUTM, including individual and collective equipment, ground mobility assets, as well as a field hospital.

EUTM Mozambique is one of the EU's tools to address the crisis in Cabo Delgado. It will complement broader EU peacebuilding efforts, conflict prevention and dialogue support, humanitarian assistance and development cooperation.

Achievements

In 2023, 10 FADM QRF's were trained and, approximately 100 FADM instructors were certified.

Activities

FADM led the Training Cycles under close supervision of EUTM instructors thus enhancing the self-sustainability of the FADM.



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EXTERNAL ACTION