

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EUPOL COPPS - Police and Rule of Law Mission for the Palestinian Territories

Updated: October 2017

Mission Mandate

EUPOL COPPS is a European Union Common Security and Defence Policy mission, based in the West Bank. It forms part of the wider EU efforts to support Palestinian state building, in the context of working towards a comprehensive peace, based on a two-State solution.

EUPOL COPPS assists the Palestinian Authority in building its institutions, for a future Palestinian state, focused on security and justice sector reform. This is effected under Palestinian ownership and in accordance with the best European and international standards. EUPOL COPPS' objective is to improve the safety and security of Palestinians. The Mission also coordinates and facilitates external donor assistance to the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP).

One of the main goals of EUPOL COPPS is to ensure that the Palestinian Civil Police has sufficient capacity to sustain a police organisation, which is efficient, transparent and accountable, operating within a sound legal framework, in accordance with international standards and able to effectively manage its resources.

EUPOL COPPS also supports the development of a sustainable criminal justice sector, which complies with international human rights standards. The Mission aims to assist the Palestinian Authority in developing and consolidating the criminal justice system, in building professional capacity within the judicial institutions.



EUPOL COPPS
EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support

FACTS AND FIGURES

Theatre: occupied Palestinian territories

Headquarters: Ramallah

Starting Date: 1 January 2006

Head of Mission: Kauko Aaltomaa

Mission strength: 70 international staff and 45 national staff

Mission budget: € 12.372 million for the period July 2017 – June 2018

Contributing states: 21 EU Member States plus Canada, Norway & Turkey.

www.eupolcops.eu

Mission Structure

EUPOL COPPS has two main operational pillars: a Police Advisory and a Rule of Law Section which comprise experienced police officers, magistrates and experts from EU Member States and third contributing countries, Canada, Turkey and Norway.

Police advisers provide modern policing expertise to their colleagues in the PCP in several domains such as Criminal Investigation, Uniformed Police, Support and Oversight. Field police advisers work with their PCP counterparts in different police districts throughout the West Bank.

The Rule of Law Section provides technical and legal advice to the different justice institutions, such as the Ministry of Justice, the High Judicial Council and the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission.

The Planning & Evaluation Department (PED) supports the implementation of the Mission's operational portfolio providing a programmatic approach and a monitoring and evaluation system in line with the benchmarking methodology in place for civilian CSDP missions.

Some Mission Achievements

- *Palestinian Civil Police*

In the security sector, EUPOL COPPS works exclusively with the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP), which comprises approximately 8,000 officers in the West Bank. On a yearly basis, the Mission trains around 600 male and female police officers.



- *Public Prosecution-PCP Cooperation Project*

Under an initiative promoted by EUPOL COPPS, the Chief of Police and the Attorney General signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to improve cooperation, especially in the field of criminal investigation. Through the MoU, an agreement has been reached to increase the amount of investigative work carried out by police, such as collecting evidence at the crime scene.

- *Legislative drafting and support to the legislative process*

The Mission promotes harmonized and inclusive processes within the criminal justice sector with respect to drafting legislation. It coordinated the international stakeholders' efforts in providing recommendations on the draft Law on Protection of Families from Violence and currently assists the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice in the drafting of key legislation, such as the draft Police Law and the amendments to the Law on the Judicial Authority.

- *Infrastructure, Training and Equipment*

The Mission has supported and continues to support a wide variety of activities such as the rehabilitation of prisons, the building and refurbishment of police stations, the purchase of equipment and furniture for the new PCP Headquarters, and trainings at the Jericho-based Palestine College for Police Sciences. EUPOL COPPS is also involved in many coordination activities related to bilateral projects, such as the construction of police stations, the Jericho prison, and logistics and maintenance of compounds.

- *Anti-corruption*

EUPOL COPPS works closely with the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and with the Corruption Crimes Court to enhance their institutional capacities. The Mission also conducts initiatives to foster the cooperation between PACC and the PCP in the investigation of corruption crimes.

- *Human Rights and Gender*

Human rights and gender equality are key objectives of the European Union as reflected in the 2012 European Union's Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy and the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020. Based on EUPOL COPPS' Human Rights and Gender Strategies, the Mission is committed to mainstream human rights and gender in all its activities, both external and internal, working towards a rights based approach. Among other initiatives, the Mission is engaged in the realisation of the right to a fair trial. EUPOL COPPS provides human rights and gender training to judges, prosecutors and the Palestinian Civilian Police (PCP). It supports the PCP Family Protection and Juvenile Unit and supports several human rights and gender units in the justice and security institutions.

"EUPOL COPPS is an expression of the EU's continued readiness to support the Palestinian Authority in complying with its Roadmap obligations, in particular with regard to 'security' and 'institution building' (...). Furthermore, the support of the EU to the Palestinian Civil Police aims at increasing the safety and security of the Palestinian population and at serving the domestic agenda of the Palestinian Authority in reinforcing the rule of law."

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2005/797/CFSP of 14 November 2005 on the European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories.

The European Union's **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The CSDP allows the Union to develop its civilian and military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention at international level, thus helping to maintain peace and international security, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The CSDP includes a strong conflict prevention component.

Based in Brussels, the **Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC)** is the permanent structure responsible for an autonomous operational conduct of civilian CSDP operations. Under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the High Representative, the CPCC ensures the effective planning and conduct of civilian CSDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.

More information and background documents available on:
<http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp>