

## Background

The EU Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS) is the European Union Police and Rule of Law Mission for the Palestinian Territories, based in the West Bank. It is an unarmed civilian advisory and mentoring mission, deployed under the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy.

The Mission builds on the work of the EU Coordination Office for Palestinian Police Support, established earlier within the office of the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process.

Following the expression by EU leaders in June 2004 of their readiness to support the Palestinian Authority in taking responsibility for law and order and, in particular, in improving its civil police and law enforcement capacity, the Mission was established by the European Union on 14 November 2005 and became operational on 1 January 2006.

The European Union has long been at the forefront of efforts for peace in the Middle East. Its priorities include further strengthening law and order and in this context, the Mission forms an important element in the improvement of the safety and security in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. EUPOL COPPS forms therefore 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.

With its continued presence in the West Bank, EUPOL COPPS is perceived as an important contributor to safety and security in Palestine.



## Mandate

The Mission is mandated to:

- Support the Palestinian Civil Police reform and development;
- Strengthen and support the Criminal Justice System;
- Improve inter-institutional cooperation between the justice and security sectors, in particular Prosecution-Police interaction;
- Coordinate and facilitate external donor assistance to the Palestinian Civil Police and maintain and enhance coordination and cooperation between other relevant donors and stakeholders.

Initially the Mission was established as a Police Mission comprising a Police Advisory Section. In 2008 a Rule of Law Section was added.

Through these two sections, the Mission works to assist the Palestinian Authority in building its institutions, for a future Palestinian state, focused on security and justice sector reforms. This is effected under Palestinian ownership and in accordance with the best European and international standards. Ultimately the Mission's objective is to improve the safety and security of the Palestinian people.

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

The Mission 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, and in building professional capacity within the judicial institutions.

## Mission Facts and Figures

<b>Theatre:</b>	<b>Occupied Palestinian Territories</b>
<b>Headquarters:</b>	<b>Ramallah, the West Bank</b>
<b>Starting date:</b>	<b>1 January 2006</b>
<b>Current Mandate:</b>	<b>Effective until 30 June 2019</b>
<b>Head of Mission:</b>	<b>Kauko Aaltomaa</b>
<b>Mission strength:</b>	<b>112 Mission Members</b>
<b>Mission budget:</b>	<b>EUR 12,667,000 (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019)</b>
<b>Contributing states:</b>	<b>Currently, all EU Member States as well as Canada, Norway and Turkey can contribute to the Mission.</b>

## Implementation of the Mandate

The implementation of the Mandate takes place through the Mission's two main operational pillars: the Police Advisory and the Rule of Law Section, comprising experienced police officers, judges, lawyers and other experts, both women and men, from the EU Member States and the currently contributing states: Canada, Norway and Turkey.

- The Police Advisory Section provides modern policing expertise to the Palestinian Civil Police. Field Police Advisers work with their Palestinian Civil Police counterparts in the Police Districts throughout the West Bank. The section also provides strategic and policy advice to the Ministry of Interior.
- 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.

## Achievements and Progress

### Palestinian Civil Police

The Mission works exclusively with the Palestinian Civil Police, which comprises approximately 8,000 officers in the West Bank. The Mission's mentoring and advising activities have been adapted to match the growing level of competencies and shifting needs. Currently the Mission supports specialist areas such as Criminal Investigation, Family Protection, Cyber Crime, Community Policing, Traffic Policing, Information Led Policing, Police Accountability, Penitentiary Management and Human Resources Management.

### Family Protection Unit

The Family Protection Unit of the Palestinian Civil Police opened its first One Stop Centre in Ramallah in 2017. It is staffed by specially trained police officers, social workers, and specialized NGOs providing care to victims. It also has specialized prosecutors, nurses, and doctors on call. The Mission has actively advised, provided knowhow and technical expertise to make the centre fully operational.

### Ministry of Interior

The Mission works with the Ministry of Interior to strengthen its oversight, strategic planning and donor coordination capacity for the security sector. It supports the Ministry in developing and implementing the Security Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2022 and provides technical advice to the Ministry in the Security Sector Working Group, the main donor coordination mechanism.

### Public Prosecution-Police Cooperation

Under an initiative encouraged by the Mission, the Chief of Police and the Attorney General in 2010 signed a Memorandum of Understanding to improve cooperation. Since, the



collaboration in e.g. managing crime scenes and handling evidence has significantly progressed. The Mission remains adamant in providing support for further consolidation of the police-prosecution and other inter-agency interaction within the field of criminal justice.

### Legislative drafting and support to the legislative process

The Mission supports the adoption of a transparent and inclusive legislative process. It contributes to enhancing clarity, foreseeability and consistency of Palestinian laws while encouraging the enforcement of uniform legislative drafting guidelines. It also supports the review of domestic legislation in the light of international obligations flowing from Palestine's accession to a number of international treaties. The Mission currently assists the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Harmonization Committee with legislative planning, reviewing and drafting.

### Anti-Corruption

The Mission continues to work closely with the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission and the Corruption Crimes Court to enhance their institutional capacities. Among the achievements in fostering working relations between the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Palestinian Civil Police, a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance the cooperation in fighting corruption in Palestine was recently signed.

### Human Rights and Gender

Based on the Mission's Human Rights and Gender Strategies, it is committed to the inclusion of human rights and gender perspectives in all its activities, both externally and internally, implementing a rights based approach. The Mission supports several Human Rights and Gender Units in the justice and security institutions and provides training to judges, prosecutors and the Palestinian Civilian Police. As part of its Human Rights work, the Mission is engaged in the realisation of the right to a fair trial and torture prevention.