



EUPOL COPPS Newsletter - October 2020

Dear friends,

The challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic are numerous for any organisation, and ours is no different. Back in 'normal' times, an important part of our work was arranging for specialists in different subject areas to come to the West Bank to deliver training or advice for a short period, as well as organising visits to Europe for Palestinians in law enforcement and rule of law institutions to observe best practices at first hand. Neither of these activities is possible any longer.



We have moved as many of our activities as possible to the digital sphere. Provided it is safe to do so, we also however continue to contribute to in-person

trainings. This month, for example, we supported a training session aimed at spreading practices to protect the best interests of children in the Palestinian justice sector, and we also organised a workshop for Palestinian police officers working on gender issues to get together and discuss common challenges and objectives.

Nonetheless, we deliver the majority of our operations online. This month's newsletter includes features about our support for capacity building in investigating environmental crime as well as the fight against money laundering and other economic crimes. These are examples of areas where we have prioritised a digital-first approach, in order to play our part in keeping our staff and the people they come into contact with safe.

Our big news this month however, is that the Political and Security Committee of the EU appointed a new Head of Mission for EUPOL COPPS on 13 October. Nataliya Apostolova is an experienced diplomat from Bulgaria, who has served as Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Egypt, Head of the EU Delegation to Libya and EU Special Representative to Kosovo. Should there be no significant changes in the current pandemic situation and the public protection measures related to it, she is due to arrive in the Mission area in mid-November. We are delighted to have received messages of congratulations from a number of our key partners, and we look forward to our continued excellent cooperation under new leadership.

Kind regards,

Katja

Katja Dominik
Acting Head of Mission
EUPOL COPPS

EU Appoints New Head of Mission



At a meeting of the Political and Security Committee of the Council of the European Union on 13 October 2020, Nataliya Apostolova, an experienced diplomat from Bulgaria, was appointed Head of EUPOL COPPS. Ms Apostolova is the first Bulgarian national to be appointed to lead an EU Common Security and Defence Policy Mission. She will also be the first woman to head EUPOL COPPS.

Ms Apostolova is expected to start her mandate as Head of EUPOL COPPS in mid-November.

Over the course of a diplomatic career spanning over 25 years, Ms Apostolova has served in senior positions in the Middle East and the Balkans, where she has developed significant expertise in areas affected by conflict. She served as the Ambassador/Head of the EU Delegation to Libya from July 2013 – August 2016 and as the EU Special Representative/Head of the EU Office in Kosovo from September 2016 – August 2020.

Prior to her appointment as Head of the EU Delegation to Libya, she served as Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Egypt, from July 2010 – July 2013, a position she was appointed to after almost two decades working in Bulgarian public service and the EU institutions as an official and diplomat.

After Ms Apostolova takes up her post, EUPOL COPPS will be the first CSDP Mission to have a female Head of Mission and female Deputy Head of Mission serving at the same time.

Juvenile justice and gender equality



EUPOL COPPS supports training to put children's best interests at the heart of justice:



EUPOL COPPS advocates for gender equality at meeting with Palestinian Police:

A training which took place at the premises of the Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI) in Ramallah on 5-6 October, and financed by EUPOL COPPS, aimed to mainstream best practices in dealing with children within the Palestinian criminal justice system.

 <https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5748>

At a meeting of Palestinian police officers working on gender issues on 6 October 2020, supported by EUPOL COPPS, the Mission congratulated the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) on its efforts to advance gender equality and promised continued support in this area.

 <https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5750>

“Environmental crimes are a threat to coming generations. It’s a motivation to do better”



Environmental crime can create serious health consequences – cancer, breathing problems, a lack of drinking water. Law enforcement officers with specific training on environmental crime are an important part of addressing the problem.

Find out more the work our Environmental Crime Adviser, Henrik Forssblad is doing to support his Palestinian counterparts to investigate and fight environmental crime:

👉 <https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5757>

“Money laundering is complex, and criminals have sophisticated ways of moving money around”



Laura Liguori, a judge from Italy, has spent much of the past decade working on international projects for the EU or in EU Common Security and Defence Policy Missions. This has included two deployments at EUPOL COPPS – the first in 2015 – 2016, and the latest since September 2019. She believes that her work as a judge in Italy is strengthened by the experiences she has had abroad, but also that the international advice and training she delivers is made more effective by regular periods

developing professionally in her home country. She will therefore soon return to her job in Italy as a pre-trial judge.

During her current deployment at EUPOL COPPS, she works a Prosecution Expert. In this role, she advises the Palestinian Attorney General's Office (AGO) and other criminal justice institutions, principally in the area of fighting economic crime.

Find out more about her work:

 <https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5760>



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