Dear Friends,

I trust that you are all keeping safe and well in these unprecedented times.

Recent occurrences around us have developed into a grave situation, and my message comes to you at a sad time as we continue to witness a dire state of affairs around us.

Notwithstanding, EUPOL COPPS remains a strong partner on the ground, and we continue to work closely with our counterparts in the implementation of our mandate. Our local counterparts are themselves coping with challenges whilst at the same time executing their duties and responsibilities towards our beneficiaries - the Palestinian population.
I reiterate that the EU stands for peace. A humanitarian crisis is, unfortunately, the first consequence of any war, and the EU stands firm in being the voice of all those who are caught up in this unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe.

This message also serves as my farewell message, although I am not venturing far. This week I will conclude my three year tenure as Head of Mission of EUPOL COPPS. It has been my great honour and privilege to work with our local and international counterparts in what is undoubtedly one of the most interesting regions of the world. I would like to thank all my counterparts and other partners for an excellent cooperation, and I pay tribute to the amazing team at EUPOL COPPS, and thank them for their dedicated service and expertise. As of 1 November I will take over the reigns as the new Head of Mission of EUBAM Rafah, the other EU civilian CSDP Mission in the region.

I wish you and your families all the very best.

Kind regards,

Nataliya Apostolova
Head of Mission
EUPOL COPPS
Introducing our New Deputy Head of Mission / Chief of Staff
Against a sad and concerning backdrop, and its ensuing challenges, we are thrilled to introduce our new Deputy Head of Mission and Chief of Staff, Karin Limdal. Hailing from Sweden, Karin is a CSDP expert and recently commenced her second tour of duty here at EUPOL COPPS. PPIO sat down with Karin to get to know her further.

1. **Tell us a little about yourself (nationality, professional background and experience and expertise)**

I’m a Swedish secondee with a husband and son currently based in Rome but with my heart and home in Verona. I’m passionate about civilian CSDP as an important tool in the EU Foreign Policy toolbox, to increase our own security within the EU but also among our partners. I’ve worked in different capacities in several CSDP and non-CSDP missions, in the EEAS and at the European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management for the past 20 years.

2. **Explain your portfolio here at EUPOL COPPS**

As the DHoM/Chief of Staff it is my job to make sure to “oil the machinery” so that the Mission can deliver on the mandate given by the EU 27. In that, and while supporting and deputizing the HoM, I will make sure that proper procedures and processes are in place and to promote a conducive working environment among other things.

3. **What do you enjoy most about working in the Region, given that this is not your first experience here?**

The hospitality of the Palestinian people. As crazy as they are behind the wheel, they are exceptionally friendly and helpful to their guests. We are truly fortunate to work with counterparts with whom we enjoy a relationship of trust.

4. **What are the challenges you anticipate facing, and how, in your view, may they be overcome?**

To insert enthusiasm and energy among colleagues after almost 17 years on the ground, in a worsening security situation, not least in recent weeks. This can partly be overcome by giving people space and independence and show them that you trust them. This makes people grow and shine in my opinion. Freedom under responsibility is something that I try to live by as a manager, until proven otherwise. Another challenge is to maintain EUPOL COPPS as a relevant and unique partner among many other actors within the Security Sector Reform and Justice sectors. There the Mission needs to focus on what is really their strength of a physical presence on the ground since 2006 with the proper peer to peer support where our experts work side by side with the counterparts on the Palestinian side. No other international entity or project can offer the same sort of support and assistance in that sense.
PPIO: Karin, thank you so much for taking the time to carry out this interview. Even in the short and somewhat tumultuous time that you’ve been in the Mission, the enthusiasm of having you back is very hard to miss! We are very much looking forward to working with you, and you can be assured of our support.
Meet our Head of Security Sector Reform Section
recently welcomed our new Head of SSRS (Security Sector Reform Section). Our Finnish colleague Kai joined us from Finland. Kai has served in the region before, also within EUPOL COPPS, and as a Mission, we are very fortunate to have him back in our midst. PPIO spent some time with Kai to get to know him a bit better, and we would like our audience to get to know him too.

1. Tell us a little about yourself (nationality, professional background and experience and expertise)

I come from Finland. I am a serving police officer with over 33 years of professional experience of which 17 years in senior management level. My current job is in the National Police Board which is the supreme command of Finnish police. My special responsibilities are the strategic management of national K9 activities, national procurement and budgeting of protective gear and weaponry and Nordic countries uniformed policing cooperation. I’m also one of the supreme command national duty officers.

My background contains experience from almost all aspects of policing: uniformed policing, criminal investigations, technical surveillance, immigration and weapons administration, all in both operational and supervisory positions. I have worked as a teacher in the Police College of Finland teaching operational leadership and management. I have also worked as a head of drug investigations department of the Finnish Customs.

On an international perspective I have lived away from Finland for some time of my life. As a child I lived in Australia for five years, one year in Saudi Arabia and two years in Iraq. After that I spent one year in the USA as an exchange student. As an adult I have spent one year in South Lebanon in the UN peacekeeping mission. In 2011-2012 I was seconded to the USSC Ramallah -mission as a senior police advisor with the responsibility of assessing and validating the Intermediate Leaders Course for the PA security forces. And my latest secondment here was 2016-2017 when I was the senior police advisor for community policing. So in a way my current post as the Head of SSRS seems to be a logic continuation.

My expertise is widespread and I have a good understanding on almost all aspects of policing as well as their interconnectivity and dependence. I have management and leadership skills of both police and civilian personnel.

2. Explain your portfolio here at EUPOL COPPS

My post within EUPOL COPPPPS is the Head of Security Sector Reform Section (SSRS). The job description contains the leadership and management of the section as well as providing expertise in the issues needed. Within SSRS, I am very fortunate to have an excellent team of Police Advisors coming from all sectors of expertise.
3. What do you enjoy most about working in the Region, given that this is not your first experience here?

The people are very friendly and hospitable and easy to talk to. For a Finn (we are mostly regarded as mute) this is very refreshing and on the other hand also slightly intimidating!

I am intrigued by the history and complexity of the region. The historical sites all around the region tell stories of different times and reigns. I see them as monuments of the rise and fall of eras.
I also think that the landscape is one of the most beautiful in the world, in all of its ruggedness and with all its different features from the northern mountains to the rolling hills towards the Dead Sea, the Mediterranean seashore and deserts towards the Gulf of Aqaba.

4. What are the challenges you anticipate facing, and how, in your view, may they be overcome?

I think we are witnessing the greatest challenge in EUPOL COPPS history at the moment. The situation has dramatically and sadly taken a horrendous turn in the past days and weeks. Despite the challenges, we as a Mission continue to implement our mandate with our counterparts, notwithstanding the trying times we find ourselves in. It comes as no surprise that the focus of our counterparts is very much on the current situation. However, life needs to continue and it is clear that most of the people want stability and safety in life. I believe that EUPOL COPPS, together with our counterparts are making a grand effort in making this possible.

How will this challenge be overcome is a million dollar question... I believe we need to “keep on keeping on” and try to think about the “day after”. When this is over the time will come for reconciliation and stabilisation. In my perspective we play an important role. Every individual EUPOL COPPS family member has her/his part to play in supporting the communities and people.

PPIO: Kai, thank you very much for granting us this interview! It is indeed a pleasure to welcome you back to EUPOL COPPS. Within the PPIO Team, we are proud to work alongside you and the SSRS Team, and sincerely look forward to building upon our excellent collaboration.
The two CSDP Missions EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah held a meeting in Ramallah to further enhance cooperation and plan joint activities with Palestinian counterparts.

During a recent meeting held in Ramallah, senior members of The European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point - EUBAM Rafah - presented to EUPOL COPPS’ Head of Operations, Police and Justice Advisors the Mission’s mandate and future plans as well as highlighted the importance of the EU Integrated
Approach. EUPOL COPPS staff delivered a presentation about the Mission’s activities to enhance the common understanding, and the two Mission had a fruitful exchange about shared challenges and the next steps ahead. EUPOL COPPS Head of Operations reiterated that the Mission stands ready to strengthen the synergies between the two Missions in order to ensure that the implementation of both mandates will continue to positively impact the Palestinian population and the Missions’ counterparts.

EUPOL COPPS Mission organized a field visit to Bethlehem District along with the Head of the Netherlands Representative Office
EUPOL COPPS Mission organised a field visit to Bethlehem District along with the Head of the Netherlands Representative Office; Mr. Michel Rentenaar. During the visit, the delegation met with the Police District Commander of Bethlehem whereby an explanation of the current status of Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) was given, including daily challenges as well as opportunities that the EUPOL COPPS is offering in terms of improving the capacities in the context of the Bethlehem Pilot project. In July 2023, the Mission launched a new Pilot Project in Bethlehem District. The aim of this project is to focus on further improving the PCP work conditions and skill in order to better support the Public.

https://eupolcopps.eu/single-news/802/en
Palestinian police officers conclude specialized course on Data Driven-Policing

Employees of the Department of Information recently concluded training courses, the essence of which now enables them to provide better analysis. Meanwhile, a fruitful cooperation has started between the DoI and the CID. This cooperation means that they will work jointly on unsolved crimes. Further training is also foreseen in the coming months. Data driven policing is undoubtedly the future, and EUPOL COPPS stands ready to provide the necessary support in this regard.
EUPOL COPPS and the Palestinian Civil Police staged a joint Community Policing activity at Dheisheh Refugee Camp
EUPOL COPPS and the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) staged a joint Community Policing activity at Dheisheh Refugee Camp (RC) – Bethlehem. The ‘back to school’ activity was carried out at the UNRWA girl’s Primary School in Dheisheh, where approximately 150 girls and boys were addressed by the Bethlehem PCP Community Policing Mobile Police Station crew and EUPOL COPPS. Back to school items were handed out to the schoolchildren, and very gratefully received. An important Community-Oriented Policing activity which has paved the way for more similar outreach in the near future in the framework of EUPOL COPPS support.

https://eupolcopps.eu/single-news/800/en

EUPOL COPPS Training Advisers participated in a workshop at Palestinian Civil Police in Jericho
EUPOL COPPS Training Advisers participated in a workshop at Palestinian Civil Police School in Jericho, addressing the updating and revising of the Basic Police Training Curriculum. Our advisers delivered a presentation on a European example of the methodology on how to update and revise such Basic Training. The presentation, coupled with the fruitful discussion that ensued contributed towards a very successful workshop.

EUPOL COPPS Community Policing and PPIO Advisors visited six police stations
EUPOL COPPS Community Policing and PPIO Advisors, hosted by PCP Bethlehem Regional Media and PR and CP Unit, visited the six police stations located throughout the Bethlehem Governorate. Throughout the visits, EUPOL COPPS Advisors were given the opportunity to meet all Station Commanders and their staff, and to discuss in depth the working environment coupled with the challenges faced.
EUPOL COPPS delivered a training on the subject of cryptocurrency. The participants hailed from different teams within the Palestinian Civil Police, including the cybercrime and financial-economic investigation departments. Cryptocurrencies play an ever-growing role in crime, and are often used as a method...
Apart from the fundamentals of the workings of virtual coins, methods of investigating and seizing cryptocurrencies were discussed. In a very interactive session, the theory of cryptocurrencies was applied to the Palestinian Territories crime situation. The head of the Cybercrime department expressed the wish to follow-up with more in-depth workshops regarding tracing cryptocurrency transactions.
Engagement with civil society (CSOs) remains an important element of the EUPOL COPPS’ mandate. During August, the Mission held a series of consultations with CSOs, with a thematic focus on human rights violations, gender inequalities and the locally shrinking civic space. The consultations come as part of the Mission’s longstanding commitment to the advancement of human rights and gender equality.

EUPOL COPPS provides equipment to Palestinian Civil Police

EUPOL COPPS donated equipment to the internet investigations team, part of the Cybercrime department of the Palestinian Civil Police in Ramallah. The Cybercrime department exists since 2016 and currently employs about 25
people. Cybercrime knows no borders, and the Palestinian Territory is no exception. Over 93% of Palestinians (over 10 years of age) in the West Bank have access to internet, and more than 86% own a cell phone, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2022.

Cybercrime is an important subject for the Palestinian Civil Police. In 2022 alone, the Cybercrime department dealt with more than 5000 cases. Consequently, Cybercrime remains one of the main priorities of EUPOL COPPS.

The Head of the PCP Cybercrime Department stated that the donation is a major contribution to the department, especially when it comes to investigating crimes involving violence against women and children. Previously, only a limited number of police offers at a time could work at the same time on internet investigations. With this donation the efficiency of the department is greatly improved.

https://eupolcopps.eu/single-news/798/en

PPIO and Community policing Teams delivered lecture to just over 100 cadets at PCPS - Jericho
EUPOL COPPS Training Advisors organised a visit to the PCPS wherein the PPIO and Community Policing Teams delivered lectures to just over 100 cadets, soon to be deployed in various sectors of the PCP. The lectures were very well received by the cadets as well as by the PCPS Director and Staff, who have requested that forthcoming groups of cadets will also benefit from similar lectures.

EUPOL COPPS Mission participated in the graduation of 28 Prison Officers
EUPOL COPPS Mission participated in the graduation of 28 Prison Officers who have been trained to work in the New Jenin Correction and Rehabilitation Centre (CRC). The graduation took place in New Jenin CRC, which is planned to be opened in approximately a month.

The new facility, which was funded by the European Union, is designed and built in line with international penitentiary standards. It can house up to 250 inmates and the opening of an additional prison eases the situation of overcrowding in the CRC’s and Police Holding Cells.

“We are keen to improve the Prison Service and are happy to be able to support CRCD with a prison that is planned and built according to international standards. The prison will provide inmates with good opportunities to participate in rehabilitation
and meaningful activities and we look forward to continuing the good collaboration we have with CRCD," said the Mission’s Penitentiary Adviser.

EUPOL COPPS Advisers visited the PCP Tubas District
EUPOL COPPS Advisers from the Security Sector Reform Section (Cybercrime, District Coordination and Environmental Crimes) visited the PCP Tubas District, meeting the District Commander and the Heads of CID and Touristic, Antiquities and Environment Departments. The scope of the meeting was to discuss the district activities, as well as seeking ways in which to enhance the work carried out by the PCP in the district. The Advisers also met the pupils participating in the local Young Police Summer Camp.

EUPOL COPPS Community Policing and PPIO Teams conducted two field activities in Ramallah and Bethlehem districts
EUPOLCOPPS Community Policing and PPIO Teams continued their outreach with two recent field activities in Ramallah and Bethlehem districts respectively, paying a special visit to two ‘Young Police’ Summer Camps, wherein the Mission Members participated in the educational activities organised by the PCP for the pupils.

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