European Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM)

Background
Since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords (1995), the EU has had a key supporting role in the stabilisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). EUPM, which followed on from the UN’s International Police Task Force, is part of a broad effort undertaken by the EU and other actors to address the whole range of rule of law aspects. EUPM, the first mission launched under the ESDP, was launched on 1 January 2003 for an initial period of three years. Following an invitation by the BiH authorities, the EU decided to continue the Mission with a modified mandate and size. It was extended until 31 December 2009.

Mandate and Objectives
EUPM seeks to establish effective policing arrangements under BiH ownership in accordance with the best European and international practice. EUPM aims through mentoring, monitoring, and inspecting to establish a sustainable, professional and multi-ethnic police service in BiH. BiH police services should operate in accordance with the commitments made as part of the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAA) with the European Union, in particular with regard to the fight against organised crime and police reform.

This is to be achieved with the following three strategic pillars:

• **Support to local police in the fight against organised crime**: EUPM contributes to the transformation of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) into an operational police agency with enhanced executive powers to fight major and organised crime. EUPM is also working continuously on the development of other state-level institutions, such as the Ministry of Security and the Border Police. EUPM officers provide operational advice and support in planning and conducting investigations and operations against organised crime. EUPM also devotes particular attention to reinforcing cooperation between police and prosecutors.
The European Union’s European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The ESDP 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 ESDP 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 ESDP 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 ESDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.

More information and background documents available on: www.consilium.europa.eu/esdp

**Accountability of local police:** EUPM inspects and monitors police operations from the early planning stage, through investigations or operations, until the case in question reaches the courts. EUPM also monitors the situation within the police, in particular situations which are perceived as unlawful, such as cases of misconduct and cases contrary to best practice or generally applied rules of engagement.

**Support to Police Reform Implementation:** EUPM assists the political police reform process by offering legislative and technical assistance, in particular for the implementation of the April 2008 police reform laws. Its Police Reform Department works in close cooperation with its professional counterparts to identify projects aimed at developing the existing police structures, as well as enhancing their operational capacity and effectiveness.

"The EUPM (...) shall aim, through mentoring, monitoring and inspecting, to establish in BiH a sustainable, professional and multi-ethnic police service operating in accordance with European and international standards. This police service shall operate in accordance with commitments made as part of the Stabilisation and Association Process with the European Union, in particular with regard to the fight against organised crime and police reform."

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/749/CFSP of 19 November 2007 on the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

**Achievements to date**

EUPM has made considerable achievements in developing sustainable policing arrangements under BiH ownership. Some successes to date include:

- Transformation of SIPA into an operational police agency with enhanced executive powers to fight organised crime;
- Solid development of other state-level institutions, in particular the Ministry of Security and the Border Police;
- Development of local ownership of the police reform process through the establishment of the Police Steering Board, co-chaired by EUPM and local authorities; and
- Progress in implementing the police reform with the Mission playing a key advisory role.