

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EU Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX-Iraq)

Updated: April 2011
Iraq/25

Mission background

The European Union Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX-Iraq) is a civilian crisis management operation conducted under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). EUJUST LEX-Iraq is the EU's first integrated rule of law mission. Following the third extension of its programme of operations, the Council of the EU agreed, on 14 June 2010, that EUJUST LEX-Iraq mission would be extended until 30 June 2012. Since January 2010, EUJUST LEX-Iraq Head of Mission is Francisco Díaz Alcantud.

The operational phase of EUJUST LEX-Iraq started on 1 July 2005 following an invitation by the Prime Minister of the elected Iraqi interim government, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, to the EU calling for the start of integrated training activities for Iraqi professionals working in the criminal justice system. The current Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki, extended his welcome and support for the mission and its activities. Moreover, the Prime Minister requested continued support from the EU in addressing the needs of the Iraqi criminal justice system through the activities of EUJUST LEX-Iraq.

MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

Theatre: Iraq and EU Member States
Headquarters: Brussels / Baghdad
Starting Date: 1 July 2005
Head of mission: Francisco Díaz Alcantud
Mission strength: 60 staff
Mission budget: EUR 22 300 000
(from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011)
Contributing states: EU member states



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From the outset, the Head of Mission set three guiding principles for all staff to adhere to.

These are:

- Security is paramount
- Iraqi involvement at every stage
- Flexibility and responsiveness to Iraqi needs

Taking into account the three guiding principles, the mission pursues the following main objectives:

- Contribute to the establishment of a professional Iraqi criminal justice system based on the rule of law;
- Assist and support the development of coordination and collaboration between the various branches of the criminal justice system through appropriate training;
- Assist, through relevant training, the Iraqi authorities to implement and develop a training strategy and modern senior management techniques;
- Advise and mentor the Iraqi authorities in selected areas according to identified needs;
- Bring EU added value to Iraq, taking into account activities of other international actors.



Head of Mission
Francisco Díaz Alcantud

EUJUST LEX-Iraq has a Coordination Office in Brussels and two field offices in Iraq, one in Baghdad and one in Erbil (Kurdistan Region). Moreover, a satellite office has been established in Basra (Southern Iraq). Following its renewed mandate that covers the period between July 2010 and June 2012, the mission will progressively move into Iraq.

Mandate and objectives

EUJUST LEX-Iraq was established to strengthen the rule of law and to promote a culture of respect for human rights in Iraq by providing professional development opportunities for high and mid-level Iraqi officials from the criminal justice system. The core aim is to foster confidence, mutual respect and operational cooperation between the different branches of the Iraqi criminal justice system: police, judiciary and penitentiary.

Courses and work experience secondments are being held in Iraq and in EU member states. They offer learning opportunities and demonstrate best practice in the rule of law. In addition, the mission's activities facilitate an exchange of views between the EU trainers and the Iraqi participants.

Mission achievements

The mission is meeting its objectives beyond expectations: by April 2011, over 4000 Iraqi investigating magistrates, judges, senior police and penitentiary officers in senior management positions had participated in 134 integrated and specialist courses plus 24 practical work experience secondments. To date, most training has taken place in EU member states and was carried out on the basis of common curricula developed to continue meeting the specific needs of the Iraqi criminal justice system while maintaining a focus on human rights. In addition to the EU based training events, the mission has already delivered 40 training activities in Iraq with more than 1215 students. More training activities, courses and work experience secondments, in Iraq and in the EU, are expected to be conducted during 2011.

An amount of EUR 40 million from the EU budget covered the common costs of the mission until mid-2010, and, a further EUR 22.3 million has been allocated for the period until the end June 2011.



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:
www.consilium.europa.eu/csdp and eeas.europa.eu