

## COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

# EULEX KOSOVO EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo

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EULEX/16

### Background

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo) is the largest civilian mission ever launched under the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

The central aim of the mission is to assist and support the Kosovo authorities on all rule of law matters, particularly in the areas of police, judiciary and customs.



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The mission was launched on the basis of a decision by all 27 EU member states in February 2008. It reached its initial operational capability in December 2008 and its full operational capability in April 2009. The EULEX mission is implementing its mandate throughout Kosovo.

### Mandate and objectives

The objective of EULEX Kosovo is to support the Kosovo authorities in all areas related to the rule of law, in particular in the police, judiciary, customs and correctional services.

This means that the mission will assist the Kosovo institutions, judicial authorities and law enforcement agencies

in their progress towards sustainability and accountability and in further developing and strengthening an independent multi-ethnic justice system and multi-ethnic police and customs service. The mission is not in Kosovo to govern or rule. It is a technical mission which will monitor, mentor and advise whilst retaining a number of limited executive powers. The key priorities of the mission are to address immediate concerns regarding corruption and the fight against organised crime.

### MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

**Theatre:** Kosovo

**Headquarters:** Pristina

**Head of mission:** Xavier Bout de Marnhac

**Mission strength:** Currently 1550 international and 1176 local staff

**Mission budget:** EUR 165 million (for the period 15 October 2011 to 14 June 2012)

**Contributing states:** Most EU member states and Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Croatia, Canada and the US. Others could join.



[www.eulex-kosovo.eu](http://www.eulex-kosovo.eu)

[www.consilium.europa.eu/eulex-kosovo](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eulex-kosovo)

## Method

The mission is conceived as a joint effort with local authorities, in line with the local ownership principle, with a view to fostering a self sustaining judicial and administrative system in Kosovo, based on the rule of law and European standards. This is being done through mentoring, monitoring and advising the local authorities in all areas related to the rule of law.

However, EULEX Kosovo has some executive powers in the broader field of rule of law, in particular to investigate and prosecute serious and sensitive crimes, such as war crimes, terrorism, corruption and serious financial crimes.

The mission, with an authorised maximum strength of 1950 international police officers, judges, prosecutors and customs officials and up to 1200 local staff, is deployed throughout Kosovo. It is based at headquarters in Pristina and in the regions, with staff working within the judicial and police system and mobile customs teams in Kosovo in accordance with the principle of co-location.

EULEX has a unified chain of command to the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, via the Civilian Operations Commander and to EU member states (Political and Security Committee). It works within the general framework of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244.



Customs officers during a routine check at the Merdare crossing point, June 2010  
(© EULEX Kosovo, EU)

"EULEX KOSOVO shall assist the Kosovo institutions, judicial authorities and law enforcement agencies in their progress towards sustainability and accountability and in further developing and strengthening an independent multi-ethnic justice system and multi-ethnic police and customs service, ensuring that these institutions are free from political interference and adhering to internationally recognised standards and European best practices..."

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2008/124/CFSP of 4 February 2008 on the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo, EULEX KOSOVO

## Next steps

On 8 June 2010, EU member states extended the mandate of EULEX Kosovo for another two years until 14 June 2012. However, the mission is foreseen to be terminated when the Kosovo authorities have gained enough experience to guarantee that all members of society benefit from the rule of law.

*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](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/csdp) - [eeas.europa.eu](http://eeas.europa.eu)