

## COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

# EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS)

Updated: April 2011  
COPPS/22

### Mission's mandate

EUPOL COPPS is a European Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission based in the West Bank. It is part of the wider efforts of the European Union in support of a comprehensive peace with Israel and a two-State solution. The mission assists the Palestinian Authority in building the institutions of the future State of Palestine in the areas of policing and criminal justice. The support of the EU aims at increasing the safety and security of the Palestinian population and at serving the domestic agenda of the Palestinian Authority in reinforcing the rule of law. EUPOL COPPS promotes "civilian police primacy", meaning that the civilian police should be the organisation in ultimate charge of policing, and that civilian control of security forces should be guaranteed. The objective is to make the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) into a competent security force of the future Palestinian State, based on the principles of democratic policing, neutrality and community-service.



EUPOL COPPS also supports the development of a sustainable criminal justice sector, which complies with international human rights standards. The mission aims to assist the Palestinian Authority to develop and consolidate the criminal justice system, to build professional capacity within the judicial institutions, enact modern legislation, and facilitate other activities to ensure their enhanced performance.

### MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

## EUPOL COPPS

EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support

**Theatre:** Palestinian Territories

**Headquarters:** Ramallah

**Starting Date:** 1 January 2006

**Head of mission:** Henrik Malmquist

**Mission strength:** 53 EU staff and 36 local staff

**Mission budget:** EUR 8.250.000 for 2011

**Contributing states:** 17 EU member states,  
Canada, Norway

[eupolcops.eu](http://eupolcops.eu)

[www.consilium.europa.eu/eupol-copps](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eupol-copps)

### Mission's structure

EUPOL COPPS has two main pillars: a Police Advisory and a Rule of Law Section. The Mission also coordinates and facilitates external donor assistance to the Palestinian Civil Police. The Police advisory section is comprised of experienced police officers from EU member states and non-EU contributing countries, such as Canada and Norway.

They provide modern policing expertise to their colleagues in the PCP in several domains (criminal investigation, uniformed police, support and oversight). Field police advisers also work with their PCP counterparts in different police districts throughout the West Bank to ensure that capacity-building efforts reach all Palestinian police officers.

In the Rule of Law Section, European and Palestinian legal professionals, including prosecutors, judges, prison experts, human rights specialists and lawyers, work together to provide technical legal advice to the different justice institutions. EUPOL COPPS main Palestinian partners in this area are the Ministry of Justice, the Courts, the Prosecution, the Bar association of lawyers and the Penitentiary service.

## Mission Achievements

By improving the Palestinian civil police's law enforcement capacity, EUPOL COPPS acts as a key channel for the efforts of the EU and the wider international community to support of the Palestinian Authority as it takes responsibility for law and order.

- **Palestinian Civil Police**

Since its creation in 2006, EUPOL COPPS works exclusively with the Palestinian Civil Police, which comprises approximately 7,800 officers in the West Bank. The mission provides continuous support to the PCP through several funding and coordination mechanisms. Additionally, the mission is increasingly emphasising national ownership of all PCP activities by supporting its attempts to lead organisational development processes.



- **Programme Steering Committee**

EUPOL COPPS has supported the creation of the Programme Steering Committee to enable the PCP and the Ministry of Interior to improve the coordination of project-based assistance in accordance with the objectives formulated in the relevant strategic plans. The mission continues to provide the PSC with technical advice and administrative support through the PCP/EUPOL COPPS co-location office.



- **Penal Code**

By providing comments, recommendations and expertise, the mission assisted the Ministry of Justice to conduct a thorough review of the Palestinian Penal Code (the provisions of which date back to the 1960s). The Ministry of Justice is drafting a new, modern law, which is fully compliant with human rights standards.

- **Public Prosecution-PCP Cooperation Project**

Under an initiative promoted by EUPOL COPPS, in August 2010 the Chief of Police and the Attorney General signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to improve cooperation, especially in the field of criminal investigation. Mechanisms to coordinate more openly and effectively have been established at the district level, and agreement has been reached on how to increase the amount of investigative work carried out by police and how to collect evidence at the crime scene.

"EUPOL COPPS is an expression of the EU's continued readiness to support the Palestinian Authority in complying with its Roadmap obligations, in particular with regard to 'security' and 'institution building' (...).

Furthermore, the support of the EU to the Palestinian Civil Police aims at increasing the safety and security of the Palestinian population and at serving the domestic agenda of the Palestinian Authority in reinforcing the rule of law."

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2005/797/CFSP  
of 14 November 2005 on the European Union  
Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories

*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) and [www.eeas.europa.eu](http://www.eeas.europa.eu)