

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EULEX KOSOVO EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo

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EULEX/17

Mandate and objective:

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) is the largest civilian mission ever launched under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The central aim of the mission is to assist and support the Kosovo authorities in the rule of law area, specifically in the police, judiciary and customs areas.

The EULEX mission is conceived as a joint effort with local authorities, in line with the local ownership principle. This is done through monitoring, mentoring and advising whilst retaining some executive responsibilities in specific areas of competence, such as war crimes, organised crime and corruption, terrorism and serious financial crimes. The mission consists mainly of police officers, judges, prosecutors and customs officials.



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The mission forms part of a broader effort undertaken by the EU to promote peace and stability in the Western Balkans and to support the Kosovo authorities as they undertake necessary reforms, in line with their and the overall European perspective of the whole Western Balkans region.

"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 and multi-ethnic justice system and a 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

Mission achievements:

Kosovo rule of law authorities have made a lot of progress during the past three years since EULEX reached its full operational capability. The customs service is already very capable and the Kosovo police is increasingly professional and has high approval ratings among the population. Most of the

credit for that goes to Kosovo. But EULEX mentoring, monitoring and advising has played its part. The area of justice remains a challenge which will require patience and time.



In regards to EULEX executive responsibilities the mission has more than 380 criminal investigations ongoing and more than 210 verdicts have already been handed down. EULEX prosecutors have been involved in more than 1850 cases. By investigating senior ministers, politicians, former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) commanders, business men and the secret services, the mission has seriously challenged the perception of impunity.

In the very sensitive, difficult and time consuming areas of war crime, organised crime and corruption, the mission has more than 170 ongoing cases and have already issued more than 65 verdicts, often with sentences up to 15 years or more of imprisonment.

Next steps:

The current mandate expires on 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. There is currently a review process ongoing within the EU structures which will form a basis on which EU Member States will decide on a likely extension and reconfiguration of the mission.

MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

Theatre: Kosovo
Headquarters: Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo
Head of mission: Xavier Bout de Marnhac
Authorised maximum strength: 1950 international, 1200 local
Current strength: 1359 international and 1148 local staff
Mandate: until 14 June 2012
Mission budget: EUR 72 million (for the period 15 December 2011 to 14 June 2012)
Contributing states: Most EU member states as well as Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Croatia and the US. Others could join.



Background:

The mission was launched on the basis of a decision by all 27 EU Member States in February 2008. Its operational phase began in December 2008 and it reached full operational capacity in April 2009.

EULEX has a unified chain of command to the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and to EU Member States (Political and Security Committee). It works under the general framework of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

For more information: www.eulex-kosovo.eu

*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 - eeas.europa.eu