



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY**



## **EU Border Assistance Mission at Rafah Crossing Point (EUBAM RAFAH)**

Updated: March 2009  
Rafah/10

### **Mission background**

Israel and the Palestinian Authority concluded an "Agreement on Movement and Access", including agreed principles for the Rafah crossing (Gaza), on 15 November 2005. The Council of the EU welcomed the Agreement on 21 November 2005 and agreed that the EU should undertake the third-party role proposed. It therefore decided to launch the EU Border Assistance Mission at the Rafah crossing point, code-named EUBAM Rafah, to monitor the operations of this border crossing point. The operational phase of the Mission began on 24 November 2005. On 10 November 2008, the Council extended the mandate of the mission until 24 November 2009.



Visit of the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

### **Mandate and objectives**

The aim of the mission is to provide a third party presence at the Rafah Crossing Point in order to contribute to the opening of the crossing point and to build confidence between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, in co-operation with the European Community's institution building efforts.



Rafah Crossing Point - Daily work

### **Mission achievements**

EUBAM has maintained its full operational capability despite the Hamas take over in the Gaza Strip. On 13 June 2007, the EUBAM Head of Mission declared a temporary suspension of operations at the Rafah Crossing Point (RCP). During the 18 months that the EUBAM monitors were present at the terminal a total of 443 975 passengers crossed through RCP.

Under the present circumstances, and taking account of the importance of having the border open and ready to continue with the implementation of the Agreement on

Movement and Access, EUBAM remains in the region with the operational capacity to deploy at short notice. Since 25 June 2006, the RCP has been closed for normal operations and open on an

exceptional basis only. Considerable efforts were made to mediate the resumption of normal operations, and to at least ensure that the crossing was open as often as possible. EUBAM's efforts resulted in RCP being open for 83 days between 25 June 2006 and 13 June 2007, allowing nearly 165 000 people to cross. The mission currently has 27 staff but is preparing a stand-by force to respond in the event of the RCP re-opening and the mission being fully re-deployed.

## MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

**Theatre:** Rafah CP (Gaza)  
**Headquarters:** Ashkelon  
**Starting Date:** 24 November 2005  
**Head of Mission:** Colonel Alain FAUGERAS  
**Mission strength:** 20 EU staff + seven local staff  
**Mission budget:** EUR 7 million (18 months)  
**Contributing states:** eight EU Member States



[www.consilium.europa.eu/eubam-rafah](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eubam-rafah) and  
[www.eubam-rafah.eu/portal/](http://www.eubam-rafah.eu/portal/)

In terms of the EU's broader contribution to the region, officers from EUBAM have provided support to EUPOL COPPS, the EU mission supporting the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP), in two areas: the audit of the PCP and the preparation of training courses. The audit process involved EUBAM officers assisting EUPOL COPPS advisers with the observation of several PCP district headquarters and police

stations in the West Bank in order to identify training and support needs. In respect of training, EUBAM has produced Border Police and Customs training programmes which EUBAM officers delivered during a Public Order training run by EUPOL COPPS at the Jericho Training Centre.



"The European Union, as part of the Quartet, is committed to assisting and facilitating the implementation of the Roadmap, which lays out reciprocal steps by the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority in the political, security, economic, humanitarian, and institution-building fields, that will result in the emergence of an independent, democratic, and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours".

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2005/889/CFSP  
of 12 December 2005 on establishing a  
European Union Border Assistance Mission  
for the Rafah Crossing Point

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*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.*

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