

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EUMM Georgia

Updated: March 2014

Background



The EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) is an unarmed civilian monitoring mission. It was established by the European Union on 15 September 2008.

Over 200 monitors were sent by EU Member States following the August 2008 conflict. They monitor compliance with the EU-brokered Six-Point Agreement of 12 August, signed by both Georgia and the Russian Federation.

The Mission started its monitoring activities on 1 October 2008, beginning with oversight of the withdrawal of Russian armed forces from the areas adjacent to South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The Mission is patrolling day and night, and the main efforts have been directed at observing the situation on the ground, reporting on incidents, defusing tense situations and facilitating contacts between security actors.

Mandate



The Mission's mandate is stabilisation, normalisation, confidence-building, as well as informing European policy-making on the conflict.

EUMM is mandated to cover the whole territory of Georgia, within the country's internationally recognised borders, but other than a few joint visits on specific cases, the *de facto* authorities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia have so far denied the Mission access to the territories under their control.

The Mission is working with all actors to prevent return to armed conflict, as well as to help make the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines safe and secure for the local population. The Mission tries to facilitate freedom of movement of citizens who live close to the Administrative Boundary Lines with Abkhazia and South Ossetia, so that they can go about their daily lives without fear and obstacles.

Implementation of the Mandate

EU Member States have contributed personnel from civilian, police and military backgrounds to the Mission. The Mission Headquarters is in Tbilisi and there are three Field Offices in Gori, Mtskheta and Zugdidi.

The monitors in each Field Office are split into three teams covering:

- The Administrative Boundary Lines and the areas adjacent to them, monitoring issues pertaining to stabilisation, normalisation and confidence-building;
- Compliance with the Memoranda of Understanding between the Mission and the Georgian Ministries of Defence and Internal Affairs;
- Human security aspects of the conflict.

MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

Theatre: Georgia
Headquarters: Tbilisi
Starting date: 15 September 2008
End Date: 14 December 2014
Head of Mission: Toivo Klaar (EEAS official)
Mission (actual) strength: 274 international staff and 128 local staff
Contributing States: 23 EU Member States
Mission Budget: 26.650.000 € (15.9.2013-14.12.2014)

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by EUMM and the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs provides transparency and imposes restrictions on equipment used and activities performed by the Georgian police in the adjacent areas.

The Memorandum of Understanding between EUMM and the Georgian Ministry of Defence limits the Georgian Armed Forces' positioning of troops and heavy equipment in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines. This unilateral engagement made by the Georgian government contributes to substantiating its commitment to the principle of non-use of force, as contained in the Six-Point Agreement. Security would be further enhanced if reciprocating measures were introduced by the Russian Federation.

Regular meetings of the 'Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism' (IPRM) take place between the security actors in the field. Participants from the EUMM, UN, OSCE, Georgia, Russia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia discuss to resolve specific issues, which contributes to confidence-building. Attached to the Mechanism is a 'Hotline' telephone system. The Hotline has proven very useful for the participants to quickly establish a common understanding of specific incidents, and EUMM has repeatedly helped to de-escalate tensions by liaising between all actors on a daily basis. Thanks to its extensive presence on the ground, the Mission has the capacity to gather accurate and timely information on the situation. Where appropriate, this information is passed on to the relevant bodies responsible for providing concrete assistance and response, including the EU Delegation in Tbilisi. The Mission also closely coordinates with the EU Special Representative for South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia, the UN and the OSCE, who co-chair the Geneva International Discussions.

Main Challenges and Progress

- While results on the stabilisation component of EUMM's mandate are tangible, significant work remains to be done as far as confidence-building is concerned. At the same time, the Mission insists that giving it access also to South Ossetia and Abkhazia would help increase transparency, bring clarity on incidents that have already taken place and thus decrease the risk of future destabilising incidents.
- The Six-Point Agreement, together with the Implementing Measures, remains the basis for the continued presence of EUMM on the ground and its efforts towards stabilising the situation. Point Five of the Agreement remains to be implemented, as the continued presence of Russian Federation military personnel and equipment in both South Ossetia and Abkhazia represents a violation.
- Although the conflict is far from finding its solution, there is a sense of security among the population on the ground, and the process of stabilisation has been consolidated, there is no longer a fear for a resumption of the conflict.
- The Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms have registered some success, especially by offering an opportunity for all participants to raise issues of concern on the security situation on the ground, and discuss the conditions for the civilian population.
- EUMM is perceived by most as an important element to ensure security and stability in the areas adjacent to the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.
- EUMM has developed good working contacts with the security forces of the Russian Federation present in the two theatres.

*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 <http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp> and eeas.europa.eu