

## COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

# EUPOL COPPS - Police and Rule of Law Mission for the Palestinian Territories

Updated: February 2015

### Mission's Mandate

EUPOL COPPS, the EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories, is a European Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission based and operational in the West Bank. It is part of the wider efforts of the European Union in support of Palestinian state building in the context of working towards a comprehensive peace based on a two-State solution. The Mission assists the Palestinian Authority in building the institutions of a future State of Palestine in the areas of policing and criminal justice under Palestinian ownership and in accordance with the best international standards. EUPOL COPPS supports the reform and development of the police and judicial institutions so as to increase the safety and security of the Palestinian population in line with the domestic agenda of the Palestinian Authority in reinforcing the rule of law. The Mission also acts as a key coordinator of the efforts of the EU and the wider international community, in its areas of responsibility.



The Mission promotes "Civilian Police Primacy", meaning that the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) should be the frontline law enforcement agency serving the Palestinian population, leading efforts on upholding law and order. EUPOL COPPS assists the PCP in the implementation of the Police Development Programme by advising and mentoring the PCP, and specifically senior officials at District, Headquarters and Ministerial level. The Mission also coordinates and facilitates external donor assistance to the PCP.

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 entire criminal justice system ("from police to prison"), 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: occupied Palestinian territories

**Headquarters:** Ramallah

**Starting Date:** 1 January 2006

**Head of mission:** Rodolphe Mauget

**Mission strength:** 71 International staff and 41 local staff

**Mission budget:** EUR 8.97 million for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

**Contributing states:** 21 EU member states, Canada, Norway, Turkey

[www.eupolcopps.eu](http://www.eupolcopps.eu)

### Mission's Structure

EUPOL COPPS has two main operational pillars: a Police Advisory and a Rule of Law Section which comprise experienced police officers, magistrates and experts from EU Member States and third contributing countries, Canada, Turkey and Norway.

Police advisers 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.

The Rule of Law Section provides technical and legal advice to the different justice institutions, such as the Ministry of Justice, the Courts, the Prosecution, the Correction and Rehabilitations Centres Department as well as the Bar Association of lawyers and the Independent Commission for Human Rights. The Section contributed to the preparation of the Justice and Rule of Law National Strategy 2011-2013 and has assisted the Ministry of Justice, High Judicial Council and Attorney General's Office to

develop institutional strategies and action plans.

A Planning and Evaluation Department, through the so-called programmatic approach, provides technical advice to the Mission and national counterparts to ensure an effective design and implementation of capacity building interventions. The section has particularly contributed to review the Palestinian Security Sector Strategy and the development of several PCP

strategic plans. The Department also acts as technical adviser to the Security Sector Working Group and the Justice Sector Working Group.

## Some Mission Achievements

### ▪ **Palestinian Civil Police**

EUPOL COPPS provides continuous support to the PCP, which comprises approximately 8000 officers in the West Bank, through advising, mentoring and through mobilising donor support. A significant example of the mission's engagement is the ongoing advice and technical support provided to the Palestine College of Police Sciences in Jericho (inaugurated in July 2012) which is the cornerstone of the PCP's efforts to provide coherent training activities to the police. The Mission is emphasizing national ownership of all PCP activities by supporting its attempts to lead organizational development processes.



### ▪ **Fighting against domestic violence**

In the field of Human Rights and Gender, including in fighting violence against women and children, EUPOL COPPS maintained its focus on and assistance to the PCP Family Protection Unit (FPU), a police body specialized in family protection and in reducing family violence. EUPOL COPPS and UN Women reviewed the strategic and regulatory framework of the FPU through a programme funded by the UK DFID.

### ▪ **Programme Steering Committee**

EUPOL COPPS has supported the creation of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) 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.

### ▪ **Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission**

The Mission remains the main provider of support to the Anti-Corruption Commission and the specialised Crimes Corruption Court, created in 2010.

### ▪ **Drafting police and judicial laws**

EUPOL COPPS promotes efficient and effective processes within the criminal justice sector with respect to drafting legislation. The Mission assisted the drafting of the "Code of Conduct on the Use of Force and Firearms" for all the Palestinian Authority Security Forces, which has entered into force. The Mission currently assists the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice with drafting key legislation, such as the draft Police Law and the Criminal Procedure Code.

### ▪ **Police-prosecution Cooperation**

Under an initiative promoted by EUPOL COPPS, the Chief of Police and the Attorney General signed a Memorandum of Understanding in August 2010 to improve cooperation between police and prosecutors in criminal investigations. Mechanisms to coordinate more openly and effectively have been established at the district level, and agreement describing the tasks and responsibilities of the police and prosecutors in the crime scene has been designed.

### ▪ **Strengthening accountability**

Signed on 1 December 2011, the EUR 2.4 million Joint Programme between UNDP/EUPOL COPPS and the Palestinian Authority is based on rule of law and respect for human rights and aims at strengthening internal police accountability, national anti-corruption efforts, gender equality, the oversight role of civil society in democratic governance and preparation for statehood.

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