

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EULEX KOSOVO EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo

Updated: October 2014

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 high-level corruption, as well as property and privatisation cases.



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MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

Theatre: Kosovo
Headquarters: Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo
Head of mission: Gabriele Meucci (IT)
Authorised maximum strength: 800 international, 800 local
Mandate: until 14 June 2016
Mission budget: approx. EUR 90 million annual
Contributing states: Most EU member states as well as Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, and the US. Others could join.



www.eulex-kosovo.eu
www.consilium.europa.eu/eulex-kosovo

The mission consists mainly of, judges, prosecutors, police officers and customs officials.

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 regions overall European perspective. EULEX skills and expertise are also being used to support the key objectives in the visa liberalisation

process, the Stabilization and Association Process and the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue.

"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 substantial progress since EULEX reached its full operational capability in 2009. The customs service is already very capable and the Kosovo Police is performing increasingly professional and according to Transparency International (2013) the most trusted police force in the region. Most of the credit for these achievements goes to Kosovo.



However, EULEX monitoring, mentoring, and advising has played its part. Despite positive developments over the past years, the area of justice remains a challenge which will require patience and time.

In regards to EULEX executive responsibilities the mission has about 270 criminal investigations on-going. About 370 judgements in criminal cases and more than 140 decisions in civil cases have already been handed down. EULEX prosecutors have been involved in about 2270 cases in their exclusive and

mixed team capacity. By investigating senior ministers, politicians, former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) commanders, business men and the informal secret services, the mission has seriously challenged the perception of impunity.

In the sensitive, difficult and time consuming areas of war crime, organised crime and corruption, the mission already issued more than 90 verdicts.

Next steps:

The current mandate expires on 14 June 2016. A Strategic Review will be conducted in the second half of 2015 to assess the achieved progress and provide the EU Member States with a framework for discussions on the focus and layout of EULEX for the remainder of its mandate. Already in 2015, a continuous assessment of the Mission's tasks will be performed in order to identify possible areas that may be transitioned to other mid- or long-term EU instruments or local authorities where feasible.

Background:

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

Following a decision by all 28 EU Member States in June 2014, the mandate of the mission was extended until 14 June 2016.

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.

*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