



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EULEX KOSOVO

EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo

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EULEX/04

Background

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) is the largest civilian mission ever launched under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The central aim is to assist and support the Kosovo authorities in the rule of law area, specifically in the police, judiciary and customs areas. The mission was launched by the EU Council on 16 February 2008 and reached its initial operational capability in early December 2008. This has allowed the mission to start its work.

EULEX Kosovo will not replace UNMIK but rather support, mentor, monitor and advise the local authorities while exercising executive responsibilities in specific areas of competence.



MISSION FACTS

Theatre: Kosovo
Headquarters: Pristina
Head of Mission: Yves de KERMABON
Mission strength: Currently 1300 international and 500 local staff (Full strength: 1900 international and 1100 local staff)
Mission budget: EUR 205 million (16 months)
Contributing states: Most EU member states and Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Croatia and the US. Others could join.



www.consilium.europa.eu/eulex-kosovo

Mandate and objectives

The objective of EULEX Kosovo is to support the Kosovo authorities by monitoring, mentoring and advising on all areas related to the rule of law, in particular in the police, judiciary, customs and correctional services. This means that the mission will 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 multi-ethnic justice system and multi-ethnic police and customs service. The key priorities of the mission are to address immediate concerns regarding protection of minority communities, corruption and the fight against organised crime.

The mission is conceived as a joint effort with local authorities, in line with the local ownership principle, with a view to foster a self sustainable judicial and administrative system in Kosovo, based on the rule of law and European standards. However, EULEX Kosovo will have some executive powers in the broader field of rule of law, in particular to investigate and prosecute serious and sensitive crimes.

"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 multi-ethnic justice system and 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

Next steps

After having reached initial operational capability the mission is expected to reach full deployment by the end of winter 2009. Once EULEX reaches full operational capability, the mission will have around 1900 international police officers, judges, prosecutors and customs officials and approximately 1100 local staff deployed Kosovo wide and working under the general framework of UNSCR 1244. It will be based in headquarters in Pristina and in the regions, with staff working within the judicial and police system and mobile customs teams in Kosovo in accordance with the principle of co-location.

The initial mandate is for 2 years but 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.



*The European Union's **European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)** includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The ESDP 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 ESDP 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 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.*

More information and background documents available on <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/esdp>