



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 22 October 2008  
14619/08 (Presse 295)

**Joint Press Statement by the United States of America  
and the European Union on US participation  
in the EULEX mission in Kosovo**

On 22 October 2008, "the Agreement on the Participation of the United States of America in the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo" entered into force. This is a distinctive case of the United States participating in a civilian European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) mission.

The European Union and the United States have a common desire to work together to support the development of Kosovo's democratic standards, in particular the strengthening of an independent and multi-ethnic rule of law system. The deployment of the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) throughout Kosovo is of benefit to all the communities in Kosovo. It is critical for international efforts to deepen rule of law in Kosovo in order to contribute to greater stability in the region. Deployment of EULEX staff is continuing apace and EULEX's initial operational capability is expected to be declared at the start of December 2008.

**P R E S S**

The negotiations were led by Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, for the EU delegation and Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, for the U.S. delegation.

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## EUROPEAN UNION

### EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

# EULEX KOSOVO EU Rule of Law Mission for Kosovo

Updated: October 2008  
EULEX/03

### Background

On 16 February 2008 the EU Council decided to launch "EULEX KOSOVO", a European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo. EULEX Kosovo will become operational after a transitional period, foreseen to end in the beginning of December 2008, during which the mission is being built up to be ready to support the Kosovo authorities in their efforts to build a sustainable and functional Rule of Law system. Meanwhile the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) will continue to exercise its executive authority under UN Security Council Resolution 1244. 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.



The Head of the EU Rule of Law mission in Kosovo, Yves de Kermabon, during a visit to Pec/Peja municipality in Kosovo

### MISSION FACTS

**Theatre:** Kosovo  
**Headquarters:** Pristina  
**Head of Mission:** Yves de KERMABON  
**Mission strength:** Currently 500 international- and 200 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.



### 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

EULEX KOSOVO is currently building up the mission and is foreseen to take up operational responsibilities starting from the beginning of December 2008 and onwards. The United Nations mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) will remain fully in charge until then. 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.



Head of Mission Yves de Kermabon (centre left) attends a town gathering as part of the EU "roadshow", Klinë/Klina May 2008

*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>*