



EU COUNCIL SECRETARIAT ~ *FACTSHEET* ~

European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS)

January 2008

The European Union's police mission for the Palestinian Territories started on 1st January 2006. Known as EUPOL COPPS (EU Police Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support) and headquartered in Ramallah, its objective is to support the Palestinian Authority in establishing sustainable and effective policing arrangements.

By improving the Palestinian Civil Police and law enforcement capacity, EUPOL COPPS is a key channel for the efforts of the EU and the wider international community to support the Palestinian Authority in taking responsibility for law and order.



EUPOL COPPS Head of Mission talking to senior Palestinian police officers

The Mission acts in close co-operation with the EU's institution building programmes for the Palestinians implemented by the European Commission as well as other international efforts in the security sector.

Aims and Scope of EUPOL COPPS

EUPOL COPPS aims at the establishment of sustainable and effective civil policing arrangements under Palestinian ownership in accordance with the best international standards.

More specifically the tasks of the Mission are as follows:

- providing support to the Palestinian Civil Police for immediate operational priorities and longer-term transformational change as described in the Palestinian Civil Police Development Programme ¹ by advising and closely mentoring the Palestinian Civil Police, and specifically senior officials at District and Headquarters level;
- advising the Palestinians on police-related Criminal Justice elements;
- co-ordinating and facilitating financial assistance, whether from EU countries or other international donors to the Palestinian Civil Police.

¹ established by EU COPPS in collaboration with Palestinian experts, during a workshop in Jericho in April 2005, see dedicated factsheet

P R E S S

Some of our latest projects

- Two Public Order training course for 88 Palestinian Civil Police officers at Jericho in September and December 2007.
- Equipment (office and otherwise) handed over in 2007 worth more than EUR 150,000.
- A Palestinian-Israeli Traffic Police Workshop took place on the 31st October.
- In the months of July and August 2007 members of EUPOL COPPS visited every facility belonging to the Palestinian Civil Police in the West Bank in order to assess their most urgent needs.

Size, Structure and Budget of the Mission

- EUPOL COPPS currently consists of 32 unarmed members of staff (27 European and 5 local), most of them police experts seconded from EU Member States.
- The Head of Mission receives guidance from the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, through the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, Marc Otte.
- The Mission began on 1st January 2006 and has a renewable 3-year mandate.
- The Mission budget until the end of 2007 amounts to EUR 8.9 million. Specific projects may be financed separately by individual EU Member States and other international donors.
- The following countries have contributed financially or with personnel to EUPOL COPPS: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK, as well as Norway.

Organisation

- EUPOL COPPS is currently headed by **Deputy Chief Constable Colin Smith, QPM**, who succeeded on 1st January 2007 **Assistant Chief Constable Jonathan McIvor**. McIvor was the first Head of Mission.
- The EU's Political and Security Committee exercises, under the responsibility of the EU Council, the political control and strategic direction of the Mission.
- EUPOL COPPS is a civilian mission in the framework of the European security and defence policy.



Civilian Palestinian Police manning a checkpoint

History

- EUPOL COPPS, which started on 1st January 2006 following a EU Council decision of November 2005, builds on the work of the EU Co-ordination Office for Palestinian Police Support (EU COPPS) established in January 2005 within the office of the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, Ambassador Marc Otte.
- The initiative followed the expression by EU leaders in June 2004 of their readiness to support the Palestinian Authority in taking responsibility for law and order, and in particular, in improving its civil police and law enforcement capacity.

Further Background

The EU has been at the forefront of efforts for peace in the Middle East, and is an active member of the Quartet alongside its partners the US, Russia and the UN. Resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict is a strategic priority for Europe. Accordingly, the EU is a facilitator in the Middle East Peace Process, notably through regular meetings with the main actors involved, visits to the Middle East by EU leaders and the activities of the EU High Representative, as well as the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process.



On 10th December 2007, EU foreign ministers expressed their determination to accompany the new momentum following the Annapolis meeting by supporting the parties in their negotiations in a sustained and active manner and through working closely with Quartet partners and other partners in the region to keep the negotiations on track. As set out in the EU Action Strategy: *State-building for Peace in the Middle East* the EU stands ready to adapt and enhance its activities in support of a new, substantive and credible process. Ministers underlined that amongst its immediate priorities the EU aims to further strengthen security and law and order, and that in this context, the re-engagement and expansion of EUPOL COPPS is an important element in the improvement of security.
