



EUROPEAN UNION

- FACT SHEET -

EULEX KOSOVO

February 2008

In the framework of its comprehensive approach towards Kosovo the EU decided to launch, on 16 February 2008, an EU Rule of Law mission in Kosovo (EULEX KOSOVO). 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 limited correctional powers in the broader field of rule of law, in particular to investigate and prosecute serious and sensitive crimes.

EULEX KOSOVO will only assume its responsibilities after a build-up period foreseen for 120 days after its launch. This means that the United Nations mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) will remain fully in charge until the end of this transition period, when the EU will step in to support the Kosovo authorities in their efforts to create a sustainable rule of law system.

Once it reaches full operational capability the mission will have around 1900 international police officers, judges, prosecutors and customs officials and approximately 1100 local staff and will be based in headquarters in Pristina or located throughout the judicial and police system in Kosovo. A contingency of around 300 police and border officials is foreseen but will only be deployed if deemed necessary. Yves de KERMABON (France) has been appointed Head of Mission of EULEX KOSOVO.

The EU Special Representative (EUSR) in Kosovo will provide local political guidance to EULEX KOSOVO Head of Mission, who will report to the Civilian Operations Commander in Brussels. The EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) will exercise, under the responsibility of the Council of the EU, political control and strategic direction of the mission.

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 financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to a period of sixteen months will be EUR 205 million.

For more information:

www.consilium.europa.eu/kosovo

www.consilium.europa.eu/esdp

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