Council establishes an EU police advisory team in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Council adopted today a joint action on the establishment of an EU police advisory team (EUPAT) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from 15 December 2005 to 14 June 2006.

The objective of EUPAT is to further support the development of an efficient and professional police service based on European standards of policing: a priority reform area for further progress towards the EU. Under the guidance of the EU Special Representative and in partnership with the host Government authorities, EU police experts will monitor and mentor the country's police on priority issues in the field of border police, public peace and order and accountability, the fight against corruption and organized crime. EUPAT activities will focus on the middle and senior levels of management.

EUPAT will be conducted in close coordination with the European Commission in view of the implementation of relevant Community institution-building programmes.
EUPAT will give special attention to:

- the overall implementation of police reform in the field;
- police-judiciary cooperation;
- professional standards and internal control.

EUPAT will be established following the termination on 14 December 2005 of the mandate of the EU Police Mission "Proxima"\(^1\) launched on 15 December 2003.

EUPAT will build on the significant results achieved by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, supported by EU political efforts and resources.