What lies behind the acronym chosen for the member of the CSDP family, CPCC? At first glance, it is hard to tell. In English, CPCC translates as Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability. In plainer English, CPCC is the entity in charge of the planning, deployment, conduct and review of civilian CSDP crisis-management missions.

Background
At the informal meeting in Hampton Court (UK) in 2005, EU Heads of State and Government recommended action in four key areas of Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP): financing, defence capabilities, effective action in the Balkans and strengthening crisis management structures.

In response to that mandate, the EU High Representative Javier Solana sent a letter in June 2006 to the European Council containing proposals for specific adjustments within the Secretariat of the Council of the EU in order to strengthen the assessment, planning and implementation capacity for European Security and Defence Policy operations (ESDP¹), including the appointment of a Civilian Operations Commander (CivOpCdr) in response to the need for a clearer chain of command for civilian ESDP missions.

The CPCC was established in August 2007, immediately after the approval by the Council of the EU of the document ‘Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management’. It sets out the functions, roles and responsibilities of the Civilian Operations Commander. This is without prejudice to the European Commission’s competences in implementing the CSFP budget. Kees Klompenhouwer was appointed Director of the CPCC and Civilian operation Commander in May 2008. Hansjörg Haber will succeed him in May 2011. In November 2008, the CPCC reached its full operational capability.

¹ European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) became Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) when the Lisbon Treaty entered into force on 1 December 2009.
The CPCC is responsible for 8 CSDP civilians missions in the areas of police, border assistance management, rule of law and security sector reform: EUPM (Bosnia & Herzegovina); EULEX Kosovo; EUMM Georgia; EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah (Palestinian Territories); EUJUST LEX (for the Iraqi justice system); EUPOL Afghanistan and EUPOL RD Congo.

The Civilian Operations Commander
The Civilian Operation Commander exercises command and control at strategic level for the planning and conduct of all civilian CSDP missions under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the High Representative. He is the overall commander of all civilian Heads of mission. He reports directly to the High Representative, and through him, to the Council. Member States and third States contributing to a CSDP mission transfer the command and control authority over their units and personnel to the Civilian Operations Commander. The full command over national personnel remains with the National Authorities. He is assisted by a deputy civilian operations Commander who substitutes the CivOpCdr when necessary to maintain continuity of command and control.

Main Tasks of the CPCC
Under the direction of the Civilian Operations Commander, the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability:

- Provides inputs to the crisis management concepts for civilian CSDP missions including the development of civilian strategic options;

- Plans and leads civilian experts’ participation in technical assessment missions regarding the planning of CSDP missions and to elaborate the respective assessment reports;

- Within the parameters set by the crisis management concept for a civilian CSDP mission and possible subsequent planning documents, carries out the operational planning for civilian operations at strategic level;

- Implements the "Force Generation Process" of the civilian CSDP missions;

- Identifies human, material (equipment, services, premises) and financial resources required for an envisaged civilian CSDP mission and proposes technical solutions in these regards;

- Develops the legal framework for the different civilian CSDP mission (i.a. decisions, rules of engagement and status of mission agreements (SOMAs));

- Works together with the European Commission to develop the financial envelope of each mission;

- Prepares directives, orders and instructions to be issued by the Civilian Operations Commander;

- Assists the Civilian Heads of mission in developing the Operation Plan (OPLAN) and the deployment plan of the mission;
− Monitors, follows up and inspects/evaluates the civilian CSDP missions and ensure adequate reporting;
− Proposes and directs co-operation between civilian CSDP missions including the exchange of experts and the redeployment of assets;
− In the light of political and operational developments, provides proposals (including for the refocusing and termination of operations) to the Political and Security Committee (PSC) through the Civilian Operations Commander and the High Representative as a basis for the PSC’s recommendation to the Council;
− Develops and reviews internal guidelines, standard operating procedures and other strategic tools for planning, launching, conduct and termination of civilian CSDP missions in the light of lessons identified;
− Contributes to the identification of EU best practices in the different areas of activity (inter alia police, rule of law, civilian administration...) according to which civilian CSDP missions may be carried out and evaluated;
− Establishes and maintains links with Member States, International Organisations and relevant third States in order to channel the exchange of mission specific information, and ensure co-ordination on operational issues with other actors in international crisis management;
− Develops and maintains links with the EU Military Staff;
− Liaises with the EEAS Press Office in order to ensure an appropriate information policy;
− Contributes to the development/review of concepts, doctrine, plans and procedures for the use of civilian CSDP assets and capabilities.

Structure of the CPCC

The CPCC totals approximately 60 staff. Its core staff is composed of permanent officials from the European External Action Service and personnel seconded from Member States acting in an international capacity, in accordance with the rules applicable to national experts on secondment to the European External Action Service.