

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EU Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX-Iraq)

Updated: Jan 2014

Mission background

EUJUST LEX-Iraq was the first EU integrated rule of law (RoL) mission conducted under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Operating between 2005 and 2013, it aimed at strengthening Rule of Law in its complexity, with a full array of necessary expertise and assistance ranging from police to justice, penitentiary, human rights and gender.

EUJUST LEX-Iraq became operational on 1 July 2005 following an invitation by Iraq's Prime Minister. During its first years, due to non-permissive security conditions, the Mission was based in Brussels and provided training to Iraqi officials in Europe. As security situation improved, the Mission started to deliver first activities in Iraq in 2009 and two years later, in 2011, it fully transferred its Headquarters in-country to be closer to its Iraqi counterparts and trainees. This allowed EUJUST LEX-Iraq to progressively become the largest and most performing international RoL partner to Iraq. After almost nine years of operations, the Mission was closed at the end of 2013.

MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

Theatre: Iraq and EU Member States
Headquarters: Baghdad
Starting Date: 1 July 2005
Mission closure: 31 December 2013
Head of Mission: Brig. Gen. László Huszár
Mission strength: 66 staff (53 international experts and 13 local staff)
Mission budget: EUR 15 400 000 (from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, including the liquidation phase in 2014 following the closure)
Contributing states: EU MS and Norway



Mandate and objectives

EUJUST LEX-Iraq was established to strengthen the rule of law and to promote a culture of respect for human rights in Iraq by providing professional development opportunities for high- and mid-level Iraqi officials from the criminal justice system.

To fulfil this mandate, the Mission pursued the following objectives:

- Contribute to the establishment of a professional Iraqi criminal justice system based on the rule of law;
- Assist and support the development of coordination and collaboration between the various branches of the criminal justice system through appropriate training;
- Assist, through relevant training, the Iraqi authorities to implement and develop a training strategy and modern senior management techniques;
- Advise and mentor the Iraqi authorities in selected areas according to identified needs;
- Bring EU added value to Iraq, taking into account activities of other international actors.



Locations

The Headquarters of EUJUST LEX-Iraq was located in Baghdad, while there was one field office in Erbil (Kurdistan Region) and a satellite office in Basra (southern Iraq).

Mission achievements

Despite a challenging security environment, the Mission maintained a high delivery of its activities addressing all branches of the Iraqi criminal justice. Some additional specialised courses were also held in EU Member States.

In the police area, EUJUST LEX-Iraq focused on promoting modern investigation techniques based on evidence, and not confession. As for the judiciary, Iraqi judges' and prosecutors' comprehension of international judicial cooperation was largely enhanced and links with regional and European judicial agencies were promoted. In the penitentiary area, significant improvements were made with regards to the prison management, prison security and prisoners' human rights. Concerning human rights and gender, the Mission improved local capacities in the fight against domestic violence and trafficking-in-persons with positive feedback from the Iraqi participants.

Overall, more than 7,000 mid- and high-level Iraqi officials have been trained or mentored throughout the Mission mandate.

Transition and exit strategy

During the months preceding its closure set for 31 December 2013, EUJUST LEX-Iraq successfully finalized all its operational activities and handed over its curricula, manuals and other training materials to the Iraqi counterparts who will further continue deliver training on their own.

As part of its combined support to the rule of law in Iraq, the EU aims to start in 2014 a programme to strengthen Iraqi criminal justice and build upon the work of EUJUST LEX-Iraq. This programme forms part of the continuous EU development targeted assistance provided to Iraq through its Development Cooperation Instrument to key sectors - democracy, good governance, rule of law and human rights - which has amounted to 1 billion euro since 2003.



*The European Union's **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The CSDP 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 CSDP 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 CSDP 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 CSDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.*

More information and background documents available on <http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp> and eeas.europa.eu