EU Police Mission in Afghanistan

MISSION BACKGROUND

EUPOL Afghanistan (European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan) is a civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission. It has since its establishment in 2007 supported the Afghan Government in building a civilian police service that operates within an improved rule of law framework and in respect of human rights. The Mission is part of the EU's long-term commitment and contributes to the EU's overall political and strategic objectives in Afghanistan. EUPOL Afghanistan's support is delivered by its police and rule of law experts from EU Member States, mainly through advising in relevant Afghan institutions (Ministry of Interior, Afghan National Police, Ministry of Justice, and the Attorney General's Office) in Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e Sharif. EUPOL carries out its tasks in a joint effort with the Afghan government and in close cooperation with a number of local and international partners.

MANDATE

The Mission focuses on institutional reform of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and on the professionalisation of the Afghan National Police (ANP), including the development of local training capacity and institutions. In addition, it supports the improved interaction among Afghan law enforcement and criminal justice actors such as cooperation between police officers and prosecutors in criminal investigations. Human rights and gender, as well as aspects related to enhancing accountability and transparency are being mainstreamed across all Mission's activities. In all its undertakings, EUPOL Afghanistan ensures that the needs, abilities and skills of the local authorities guide the reform process.

The EU has extended EUPOL's presence in Afghanistan until the end of 2016. In this regard, the Mission will now provide advice at the strategic level to the Afghan Ministry of the Interior until the end of 2016 and to the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Office until the end of 2015.

MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

- Theatre: Afghanistan
- Headquarters: Kabul
- Starting Date: June 2007
- End Date: 31 Dec 2016
- Head of Mission: Pia Stjernvall (Finland)
- Mission strength: 206 international staff and 178 local staff (11 February 2015)
- Contributing Member States: 23 EU MS
- Mission Budget for 2015: 58 Million Euro

During 2015-2016 EUPOL Afghanistan focuses its activities on the three new lines of operation:

1) Institutional reform of the Ministry of Interior (MoI)
2) Professionalisation of the Afghan National Police (ANP)
3) Connecting police to justice reform
INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF THE AFGHAN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

EUPOL advances the Ministry of Interior's institutional capacity building, including its ability to coordinate international support through improved long-term planning, management and leadership, policy implementation and accountability. This includes advising at the strategic level with selected key counterparts.

PROFESSIONALISATION OF THE AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE

EUPOL is advancing the professionalisation and efficiency of the ANP as a civilian police service. Particular attention will be given to professional standards, community policing, criminal investigation capacities, intelligence-led policing, female police officers, management of training institutions and the fight against corruption. To support the improving leadership and command capabilities the senior management of the General Training Command and specifically of the Police Staff College as well as the Crime Management College will be advised towards common standards within the police educational system. The Field Offices in Mazar-e Sharif and Herat are focusing on the implementation of the policies from the Ministry of Interior and the Attorney General’s Office.

CONNECTING POLICE TO JUSTICE REFORM

EUPOL enhances the cooperation between police and prosecutors, and mainstreams anti-corruption and gender and human rights, supporting an improved legal aid system to increase access to justice and the establishment of a sustainable educational institution for prosecutors within the Attorney General’s Office (AGO). This entails strengthening Afghan capacities to train prosecutors and enhancing the ability of authorities, including the Parliament, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and the Attorney General’s Office to draft, adopt, disseminate and implement legislation relevant to criminal justice. For strengthening police –prosecutor cooperation, EUPOL jointly with GIZ, delivers Unaas Mushtarak (“Women together”), a police-prosecutor cooperation and human rights and gender course, tailored especially for female police officers and prosecutors. EUPOL supports the development of AGO’s capacity to establish an educational structure by supporting establishing and improvement of Professional Training Institute within AGO.

The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) enables the Union to take a leading role in peace-keeping operations, conflict prevention and in the strengthening of the international security. It is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach towards crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets. Since 2003 the EU has launched some 30 peace missions and operations contributing to stabilisation and security in Europe and beyond.

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.