



# MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS REPORT 2024/2025

EUROPEAN UNION  
COMMON SECURITY  
AND DEFENCE POLICY



Manuscript completed in December 2025.

Unless indicated otherwise, the reporting period is 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025.

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EUROPEAN UNION

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS

REPORT

2026

EU CSDP Missions and Operations 2024/2025 Report

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# FOREWORD BY HIGH REPRESENTATIVE / VICE-PRESIDENT KAJA KALLAS

The role of the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is twofold: to defend the European Union's security and protect our interests, while promoting stability beyond the Union's borders.

As this report demonstrates, the results in 2024 and 2025 are significant. In Ukraine, our Military Assistance Mission (EUMAM) trained over 90,000 Ukrainian soldiers and strengthened the country's defence capabilities. Our two missions in the South Caucasus have helped prevent the resumption of hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In February 2024, the launch of our naval operation EUNAVFOR ASPIDES in the Red Sea helped 1,700 ships and safeguarded freedom of navigation along a key global trade route amid growing regional instability. In Africa, our missions and operations reinforced our partners' capacity to tackle terrorism and illicit activities, while playing an important role in the fight against piracy and supporting our partners with training and capacity-building.

The success of every mission and operation is down to the hard work of thousands of European civilian and military specialists deployed across our Eastern Neighbourhood, Africa, and the Middle East. The dedicated staff strengthen local institutions, build resilience, enhance partner countries' abilities to safeguard their sovereignty and respond effectively to crises in fragile environments. This work helps create the conditions for peace and stability, it complements the EU's diplomatic efforts and is an important part of the EU's offer in the world today.

To ensure our Union remains a reliable security partner worldwide, we must be able to respond to



challenges as they develop and foresee where our support could be needed. For example, today the entire global economy can be held to ransom with the closure of a single stretch of water. Freedom of navigation is a fundamental principle of international law. Its enforcement has now become a global priority. With our experience in the Red Sea, a reinforced ASPIDES would be the fastest way for the European Union to support this goal. Being a reliable security actor in the world does not always require a major investment. With our mission in the Gulf of Guinea, for example, even with a very light EU presence on the ground we were able to train more than 2,500 security personnel in less than two years. We are now reflecting on how to replicate this format in other West African countries.

What counts is our steadfast commitment to realising the potential of the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy. When our Member States pull in the same direction and our staff demonstrate the courage and professionalism as they do today, Europe is truly a force for good in the world.

*Kaja Kallas  
European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
Vice-President of the European Commission*

## CIVILIAN AND MILITARY

## SYNERGY IN EU FOREIGN

## POLICY

**Joint operational overview by Civilian Operations Commander Stefano Tomat, Managing Director Civilian Operations Headquarters, and Lt General Michiel van der Laan, Director General EU Military Staff (EUMS) and Director Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC).**

The credibility of the European Union's foreign policy rests on its ability to act on the world stage in an integrated manner in support of its interests and values. The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) embodies this approach by bringing together civilian and military capabilities as part of a single, coherent approach to crisis management and international security.

By combining civilian expertise and military capabilities, CSDP enables the Union to respond to crises in a way that is comprehensive, flexible and strategically coherent.

Civilian missions and military missions and operations are not parallel tracks; they are complementary instruments. They each have the potential to reinforce the impact and legitimacy of the other, providing the EU with a wide spectrum of solutions across the security landscape. In several theatres around the world, our missions and operations are deployed side by side or in contiguous areas of operations. Acting together, they help give practical effect to the European Union's commitment to peace, stability and security.

This biennial report is a testament to that collective effort. It highlights the depth and diversity of CSDP engagement and underlines the essential contribution of those who serve in civilian missions, military missions, military operations and supporting structures alike. It is through this shared endeavour, and through the continued integration of diverse capabilities and expertise, that the European Union can continue to make a meaningful difference in today's turbulent world.



## PART 1

# Achievements of CSDP Missions and Operations



## THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD



## EU Advisory Mission to Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine)



### Overview

Since its launch in 2014, the EU Advisory Mission to Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine) has supported civilian security sector reform in line with EU standards. Following Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, its mandate expanded to address wartime challenges and post-war recovery, focusing on stability, resilience, and EU accession alignment. The largest foreign mission supporting Ukraine, operating on Ukrainian soil, EUAM maintains its headquarters in Kyiv, with Field Offices in Lviv, and Odesa, with support delivered in Ukraine's Liberated and Adjacent Territories (LAT) through its Mobile Unit. Due to Russia's full-scale invasion, the Mission's field offices in Kharkiv and Mariupol are temporarily non-operational.

Its role became even more critical after the EU's 2023 accession talks decision, with 2024-2025 priorities centred on reforms, border security, stabilisation, and war crimes accountability.

### Mandate

The mandate of EUAM is implemented through three lines of operation:

- Strategic advice on civilian security sector reform to develop strategic documents and legislation.
- Operational support for the implementation of reforms through capacity building, training, and practical support for the civilian security sector.
- Cooperation and coordination focus on supporting Ukrainian partners in developing cohesive and effective coordination mechanisms, both at national and international levels.

On 14 May 2024, the EU Member States, through a decision by the EU Council of Ministers, reinforced the Mission and intensified its efforts in Ukraine, extending the mandate from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2027.

### Achievements 2024/2025

- Law enforcement reform (OAS): Supported drafting and adoption of the OAS Action Plan (August 2024), a cornerstone of EU accession-related reforms.
- Integrated Border Management: Helped align Ukraine's IBM framework with EU standards; supported the creation of a Joint IBM Coordination Centre (April 2024) and development of the 2026-2030 IBM Strategy.
- Stabilisation of Liberated and Adjacent Territories (LAT): Developed a stability policing concept, delivered specialised training, and established sustainable pre-deployment training. Launched the Blue Haven for Ukraine project (2025), opening three centres to provide psychosocial support to law enforcement officers and families.
- International crimes: Strengthened the capacity of the Office of the Prosecutor General and law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute complex international crimes. Supported case reviews through the Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group and helped establish the Victim and Witness Coordination Centre.

## Activities

Following the 2024 mandate revision, EUAM Ukraine focuses on five operational priorities:

- Supporting implementation of the OAS and broader civilian security reform.
- Aligning Ukraine's Integrated Border Management system with EU standards.
- Strengthening stabilisation and resilience in liberated and adjacent territories.
- Enhancing capacity to investigate and prosecute alleged international crimes.
- Good governance, anti-corruption, human rights and gender equality are integrated across all activities.



# European Union Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine)



## Overview

Launched in October 2022, the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM) aims to train and equip the Ukrainian Armed Forces in response to Russia's full-scale invasion. Operating on EU soil, the Mission works alongside like-minded international partners to deliver comprehensive military training across land, maritime and air domains. By 2023, 24 EU Member States had contributed training modules and personnel, while lethal and non-lethal equipment was provided through the European Peace Facility (EPF) funding. The Mission is the largest training provider to the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

## Mandate

EUMAM's mandate is focused on strengthening the capacity of the Ukrainian Armed Forces to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

The Mission provides training to Ukrainian military personnel at basic, advanced and specialised levels on medical assistance, CBRN, demining, logistics and communication, maintenance and repair, among other matters. It also provides junior leadership training from section/squad and platoon levels up to company, including operational training; preparation of companies, battalions and brigades in collective manoeuvres and tactics up to battalion level; and advice on the planning, preparation and conduct of live firing exercises.

## Achievements and Activities

EUMAM Ukraine reached over 85,000 trained Ukrainian soldiers in 2025. Together with EPF, the Mission is the most visible sign of EU military support to Ukraine. All Mission activities followed the training requests of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and evolved over time according to their battlefield needs.





## The European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia)

### Overview

The European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia) was established in 2008 following the signature of the EU-brokered ceasefire agreement between Georgia and Russia which brought the Russia-Georgia conflict to an end. The Mission monitors security developments and their impact on conflict-affected communities living on both sides of the Administrative Boundary Lines (ABLs) with Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

### Mandate

The Mission's objective is to contribute to stability in Georgia and the wider region. For this purpose, the Mission monitors and reports on conflict-related issues, incidents, and developments in Georgia, and facilitates the resumption of a safe and normal life for the local communities living on both sides of the ABLs with South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

### Achievements

- Stability: Maintained 24/7 monitoring along the Abkhazia/South Ossetia Administrative

Boundary Lines (ABLs), with 4,377 patrols in 2025. Visible presence reduced tensions and boosted local security perceptions.

- Dialogue: Facilitated communication via the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (7 meetings in 2025) and EUMM Hotline (1,960 activations), resolving issues like detainee releases, water access, and cross ABL movement.

### Activities

- Monitoring: Deployed from Mtskheta, Gori, and Zugdidi, tracking ABL "borderisation" (fences/barriers), freedom of movement, and human rights/IDP conditions. Hosted high-level visits.
- Confidence-Building: Funded cross-ABL projects via the Confidence Building Facility and managed 24/7 Hotline for urgent incidents (detentions, medical crossings, livestock disputes).
- Reporting: Provided impartial updates to EU institutions/Member States on security/humanitarian developments.



## European Union Mission in Armenia (EUMA)

### Overview

Following the escalation of tension on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border in September 2022, Armenia agreed to the temporary presence of an EU Monitoring Capacity (EUMCAP) on the Armenian side of the border for a period of two months. In December 2022, following the successful experience of EUMCAP, the Armenian government requested the EU to deploy a fully-fledged EU civilian mission on the ground.

The EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA) was launched on 20 February 2023. EUMA Headquarters (HQ) are located in Yeghegnadzor, with six Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Yeghegnadzor, Jermuk, Martuni, Kapan, Goris and Ijevan. The Mission also has a Liaison and Support Office in Yerevan.

EUMA operates exclusively within the internationally recognised territory of Armenia.

### Mandate

EUMA observes and reports on the security situation along the Armenian side of the internationally recognised border with Azerbaijan. It aims at contributing to human security in conflict-affected areas in Armenia and to build confidence between Armenia and Azerbaijan. EUMA is an essential component of the EU's efforts to promote peace in the region. It supports mediation efforts, led by the EU.



## Achievements

- Strengthened cooperation with the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia through a formal arrangement signed in May 2025.
- Launched a Young Professionals Programme.
- Conducted over 7,500 patrols since 2023, including night patrols, Human Security patrols, and Security Situation Awareness patrols (SSA), maintaining the only international presence along the border.

## Activities

### ***Monitoring and reporting***

- Provided reporting and thematic analysis to the EU, including 36 additional thematic reports in 2025.
- Reorganised its structure in line with updated operational guidance; now fully staffed, with enhanced liaison capacity in Yerevan.
- Engaged regularly with local communities to assess needs and concerns.

### ***Confidence-building***

- Launched community projects under its Confidence-Building Facility, including the Border-to-Border Communities initiative and Youth, Peace and Security dialogues.
- Increased outreach in border regions through school visits, meetings with local authorities, and civil society discussions to promote transparency and counter disinformation.



## European Union Partnership Mission in the Republic of Moldova (EUPM Moldova)

### Overview

The EU Partnership Mission in the Republic of Moldova (EUPM Moldova) strengthens crisis management and inter-agency cooperation to counter cyberattacks, disinformation, and hybrid threats. Since its launch in 2023, the Mission has supported key legislation and helped establish critical institutions - including the National Crisis Management Centre, Cybersecurity Agency and the Centre for Strategic Communications and Countering Disinformation - while providing training, support and strategic advice to safeguard the integrity of the electoral processes in 2024 and 2025.

### Mandate

EUPM Moldova is a civilian, non-executive Mission mandated to strengthen Moldova's capacities for crisis management structures and its ability to counter hybrid threats, including in cybersecurity and Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI).

### Achievements

- The Mission supported the Moldovan efforts to build coordinated crisis management structures and inter-agency coordination at the national level.
- EUPM Moldova was instrumental in the development of key legislation governing national security, civilian crisis management and critical infrastructure.
- At the same time, the Mission assisted in the creation and operationalisation of three new state institutions: National Crisis Management Centre, Cybersecurity Agency and the Centre for Strategic Communications and Countering Disinformation.

### Activities

- Provided strategic advice, training, and equipment to its Moldovan partner institutions.
- Deployed both short-and long-term advisers. Advisers from Member States specialised in cybersecurity, FIMI or crisis management.
- Organised 59 capacity-building activities ranging from training and workshops to simulation exercises and study visits.
- Delivered to its partners information technology and communications equipment worth over EUR 2.6 million and facilitated direct support from Member States of EUR 4 million.



## THE WESTERN BALKANS



### European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo)

#### Overview

For nearly two decades, the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) has supported Kosovo's institutions in strengthening the rule of law, justice, and stability. Today, the Mission focuses on monitoring high-profile and inter-ethnic cases, publishing Justice Monitoring Reports to enhance transparency and human rights and supporting correctional and probation services to align with international standards. In northern Kosovo, EULEX advises the Kosovo Police on community policing, de-escalation, and trust-building, while maintaining a

limited executive role as a second security responder alongside KFOR. EULEX also provides assistance in addressing conflict legacies by supporting forensic searches and identifications of victims reported missing during the period 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2000 as a consequence of the 1998-1999 conflict in Kosovo, providing closure for families. Additionally, the Mission facilitates international police cooperation (Europol/Interpol) and engages with civil society on gender equality and vulnerable group protection.

## Mandate

Established in 2008, EULEX strengthens rule of law institutions in Kosovo through monitoring and limited executive functions. Its goals are effectiveness, sustainability, multi-ethnicity, accountability, and compliance with human rights and European best practices.

## Achievements

- Monitored selected cases along the entire justice chain and issued public reports with findings and recommendations on human rights compliance and systemic weaknesses.
- Strengthened community policing in northern Kosovo through advisory units and capacity building.
- Reinforced security and stability during periods of tension by increasing patrols and readiness of its formed police units.
- Supported location and identification of missing persons from the 1998-2000 period, achieving numerous identifications and handovers to families.

- Improved international police cooperation and police information exchange between the Kosovo Police and Interpol, Europol and the Serbian Ministry of Interior.

## Activities

- Monitoring of criminal and civil cases and recommendations to improve the justice system.
- Support to correctional and probation services, including training and risk-assessment standards.
- Increased patrols and visibility in sensitive areas to maintain stability and community confidence.
- Community policing training and workshops for police officers.
- Forensic field operations and identification of missing persons in support of the Institute of Forensic Medicine.
- International police cooperation via Interpol, Europol and other channels.
- Engagement with civil society on gender equality, prevention of gender-based violence and protection of vulnerable groups.





The European Union Mission Rule of Law in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo) supports the work of the SC and the SPO by providing security and logistical assistance during operations in Kosovo, such as custodial visits by detainees ordered on humanitarian grounds, and during staff missions. Furthermore, the EULEX Kosovo Head of Mission is the appointing authority for the Appointed Officials and the Judges.

### Achievements and Activities

During 2024 and 2025, the SC and SPO continued delivering fair, independent and secure judicial proceedings related to serious crimes committed during and after the Kosovo conflict. Given progress in cases and the institutions' temporary mandate, a structured downsizing plan was adopted in 2025 to gradually reduce staff while ensuring continued effective functioning during key judicial milestones.

#### Judicial proceedings

- Issued a trial judgment, reparations order and appeals judgment in *Specialist Prosecutor v. Pjetër Shala*.
- Completed prosecution, defence and victims' cases in *Specialist Prosecutor v. Hashim Thaçi et al.*
- Approved the first plea agreements before the SC.
- Advanced a separate administration of justice case to trial.
- Concluded a sentence enforcement agreement with the Kingdom of Belgium.

In 2024 and 2025, 178 public hearings were held. Proceedings were streamed in Albanian, Serbian, and English. In 2025, the SC website recorded 171,000 individual users. Over two years, more than 8,400 filings were processed and nearly 9,000 items disclosed electronically.



## Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office

### Overview

The Kosovo Specialist Chambers (SC) and the Specialist Prosecutor's Office (SPO) have a specific mandate and jurisdiction over crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other crimes under Kosovo law, which were commenced or committed in Kosovo between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2000 by or against citizens of Kosovo or the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They relocated to The Hague, the Netherlands, with only international staff including Judges, the Specialist Prosecutor and the Registrar. While financed under the CSDP budget, the SC and the SPO are independent in the exercise of their mandate. Both are of a temporary nature.

### *Victims and witnesses*

- 172 victims participated in proceedings by the end of 2025.
- 96 witnesses testified during the reporting period, many under protective measures or via video link.
- A dedicated unit ensured witness protection and wellbeing.

### *Detention and enforcement*

- Four arrests were made; three persons were released under strict conditions.
- At the end of 2025, nine detainees were held in SC detention facilities in The Hague.
- Facilities are independently monitored by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the SC Ombudsperson.
- Over 1,250 family visits were facilitated.

### *Outreach and transparency*

- Since 2018, 210 outreach events have reached 4,500 people in Kosovo.
- Public information efforts included televised video clips, online press briefings and journalist roundtables.

### *SPO activities*

- The SPO maintained active investigations and prosecutions, including:
- Concluding evidence in the Thaçi trial and litigating defence cases.
- Securing a guilty verdict in another war crimes case and handling the appeal.
- Negotiating guilty pleas in administration of justice cases.
- Continuing obstruction of justice investigations to safeguard proceedings.



## European Union Force Operation Althea (EUFOR ALTHEA)

### Overview

The European Union (EU) launched the European Union Force Althea (EUFOR ALTHEA) operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in December 2004. This military operation succeeded the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) and assumed responsibility for maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) in BiH. EUFOR ALTHEA was established under the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) framework, which allows the EU to collaborate with partner nations on security challenges.

Operation Althea plays a key role in supporting the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in maintaining a secure and stable environment (SASE).

### Mandate

Based on its executive mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, EUFOR is responsible for implementing the military annexes of the General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP), also known as the Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA).

EUFOR's primary aims remain as follows:

- Support the authorities of BiH in maintaining SASE in the country.
- Support and cooperate with the BiH authorities.
- Support the overall EU comprehensive strategy for BiH.

Since the operation began, the responsibility for the execution of many tasks has been handed over to the local authorities according to the principle of "local ownership" and in line with BiH's path towards EU membership. Nevertheless, EUFOR retains full responsibility and authority to re-assume control if required.

### Activities in 2024 and 2025

Supporting local authorities in maintaining a SASE:

- EUFOR monitors developments in BiH and maintains close liaison to local security providers to have full and timely situational awareness on security related issues. The EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNB), based in Camp Butmir is deployable by land and air, equipped and trained to respond to different kinds of situations if required. EUFOR's in-theatre personnel can be augmented at short-notice by Over-the-Horizon Reserve Forces from the EU and in coordination with NATO under the "Berlin Plus" arrangements.
- EUFOR monitors and inspects weapons and ammunition storage sites of the AFBiH, Defence Industry Factories and monitors export/import of weapons, ammunition and military equipment.

Collective training with the Armed Forces of BiH:

- EUFOR continues to plan, organise, coordinate and conduct collective training with the AF BiH to improve the interoperability in peace support operations and for future international cooperation.

Supporting counter-proliferation, demilitarisation and demining:

- BiH still has large stockpiles of weapons, ammunition and mines left over from the war (1992-1995), many of which become more dangerous over time.

- EUFOR oversees and provides essential expertise and support to the 'Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives (AWE) Masterplan' aiming for the safe disposal and storage of AWE. EUFOR is a key contributor to the BiH Mine Action Strategy. It also provides subject-matter expertise on demining, supports the Demining Battalion of the AF BiH and educates over 15,000 vulnerable adults and children per year on the risks posed by mines.
- Throughout 2025, EUFOR conducted a series of major exercises with AF BiH and law enforcement agencies. Additionally, personnel from 25 different nations serving within Operation Althea took part in a wide array of training activities.
- In 2025, EU High Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas visited the EUFOR Base in Bosnia and Herzegovina on two occasions, meeting with the Mission's commander as well as state officials, clearly emphasising the EU's unwavering commitment to regional stability and the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- On 31 October 2025, the mandate of EUFOR Althea was extended by the UN Security Council, which unanimously adopted Resolution 2795 (2025), until 2 November 2026.

## Achievements

- In August and September 2024, EUFOR Althea conducted Exercise Quick Response, the largest exercise in mission history, demonstrating EUFOR readiness, while also integrating the EUFOR Reserve Forces into the exercise for the first time.
- On 2 December 2024, EUFOR Althea celebrated its 20th Anniversary, demonstrating the EU's unwavering commitment to peace, stability and reconciliation in BiH.



## THE MEDITERRANEAN



## EU Naval Force for the Mediterranean – Operation IRINI (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI)



### Overview

Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI was launched on 31 March 2020 by Council Decision 2020/472. It forms part of the EU integrated approach to Libya, which includes political, military, economic and humanitarian efforts to bring stability and security to the country. On 11 March 2025, after the completion of the Strategic Review Process, Council Decision 2025/488 extended IRINI’s mandate until 31 March 2027 and expanded it to include a new Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) task.

Through its surveillance efforts and operational activities, Operation IRINI plays a key role in enhancing EU Maritime Domain Awareness in the Central Mediterranean. The operation remains a critical instrument for enforcing sanctions, disrupting illicit trafficking, and safeguarding EU interests in the Central Mediterranean.

### Mandate

EUNAVFOR MED IRINI operates in the Central Mediterranean, leveraging maritime, aerial, and satellite assets to protect EU interests. Its five key tasks include:

- Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA): monitoring suspicious activities, such as shadow fleets, and Critical Maritime Infrastructure, since 2025.
- Countering illegal arms trafficking (CIAT): enforcing the arms embargo on Libya in accordance with UNSCRs 2292 (2016+).
- Combating oil smuggling (COS): implementing UNSCR 2146 (2014+) to protect Libya’s economy and curb arms financing.
- Disrupting the Human Smuggling Business Model (HSBM): through intelligence-sharing with relevant authorities.
- Capacity-building (CB&T): supporting Libyan law enforcement and search-and-rescue institutions.

### Achievements

Since its launch, Operation IRINI has delivered concrete results in enforcing the Libya arms embargo and safeguarding EU maritime interests:

- Vessel Inspections and Diversions: conducted 33 boardings of suspected arms-trafficking vessels and diverted three vessels violating the embargo for further investigation.
- Enhanced Surveillance and Reporting: hailed 21,532 merchant vessels via radio queries, performed 782 “friendly approach” vessel visits (with masters’ consent), investigated 2,415 suspect flights and monitored 25 airports/16 ports, submitted 81 reports to the UN Panel of Experts on Libya, primarily on embargo violations and oil smuggling, issued 97 inspection recommendations to EU Member States (76 executed).
- Shadow Fleet and Traffic Monitoring: tracked 442 of c.600 sanctioned shadow fleet vessels in 2025, monitored c.4,000 vessels (275 Libya-bound) in the Area of Operations.

### Activities

Throughout 2024 and 2025, EUNAVFOR MED IRINI hosted numerous high-level political and military visits. The operation also participated in the 13th and 14th editions of the Shared Awareness and De-confliction in the Mediterranean (SHADE MED) Conference in December 2024 and November 2025. On 11 March 2025, the EU Council extended the mandate of EUNAVFOR MED Operation IRINI by a further two years, until 31 March 2027.



## EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya)



### Overview

EUBAM Libya strengthens Libya's border security – land, sea, and air – through training, technical support, and institutional reforms. It enhances coordination against organised crime, supports forensic and investigative capacities, and improves cross-border security, aligning Libyan practices with international standards to foster stability and regional cooperation.

### Mandate

Established in 2013, the Civilian Mission supports Libyan authorities in managing borders and tackling cross-border crime such as human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and counter terrorism. Its mandate was last updated in July 2025. EUBAM Libya also promotes cooperation between agencies inside Libya and with international partners, supporting a coordinated approach to border management and criminal investigations.

### Achievements

- Strengthened cooperation with Libyan authorities through Joint Committee meetings and Technical Working Groups on land and maritime borders. A first visit to Benghazi, in December 2025, with the EU Delegation and EUNAVFOR MED Operation IRINI provided an initial opportunity to explore capacity building-activities with entities in the East that operate Libya-wide.
- Increased support to the Criminal Investigation Directorate through on-the-job training in forensics for experts from Tripoli, Benghazi and Sabha. Also trained anti-narcotics officers on investigating cross border crime.
- Improved land border management, especially along the western border with Tunisia, leading to enhanced patrolling, faster response and stronger coordination between border agencies.

### Activities

- Delivered advice, mentoring, training, and equipment support throughout 2024-2025.
- Provided practical training on criminal investigations, data analysis, digital evidence, and forensic work, while promoting gender aspects and human rights.
- Upgraded infrastructure and provided training and equipment at key western border points, including Al Assah and Ras Ajdir.
- Supported the development of a national maritime search and rescue plan and strengthened the Tripoli Joint Rescue Coordination Centre with infrastructure and provision of equipment, increasing situational awareness and coordination response to sea incidents and the management of irregular migration flows.
- Assisted the Libyan Customs Authority by providing equipment and digital tools, including introducing SOClass software at Tripoli Seaport to modernise customs and risk management systems.



## THE MIDDLE EAST





## European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS)

### Overview

For over 20 years, the EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS) has supported the Palestinian Authority in building a professional police force and functional criminal justice system, contributing to long-term stability and the two-state solution. Working closely with the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) and justice institutions, the Mission has driven key reforms, including reorganising the Criminal Police Department into a standalone unit, establishing a Train-the-Trainer programme to sustain local investigative expertise, and promoting community policing alongside human rights and gender mainstreaming.

### Mandate

Established in 2005, EUPOL COPPS is mandated to support the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Interior (MoI) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in their reforms and focuses assistance to the Palestinian Authority's Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) by advising and mentoring senior officials and related criminal justice chains. The mandate was renewed on 1 July 2024 and again for a further year on 1 July 2025.

### Achievements

- Advised on police reforms, including making the Palestinian Civil Police Criminal Police Department an independent unit and setting up a training programme for criminal investigators.
- Supported the introduction of community policing to help create safer communities and prevent crime.
- Helped complete the Bethlehem Pilot Project to improve cooperation between police and prosecutors and promote human rights and gender equality in daily police work, with plans

to expand it to other districts.

- Assisted the Palestinian Authority in improving early access to lawyers in court, strengthening how laws are developed, and aligning Palestinian laws with international human rights standards.
- Supported an agreement between the Attorney General, the police, and the Bar Association to ensure early legal support for juveniles, backed women's professional networks, and contributed to EU reform efforts to strengthen judicial independence.
- Set up cooperation between the Palestinian Judicial Institute and the Swedish National Courts Administration to speed up court cases through e-learning and digital tools.

### Activities

- Supported the Palestinian Authority in preparing for a possible role in policing and justice in Gaza, including taking part in Ministry of Justice working groups and international meetings.
- Helped advance the Palestinian Authority's 2024 Rule of Law reform plan, focused on better governance, transparency, accountability, and fighting corruption, including strengthening the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission's ability to investigate cases.
- Assisted with updates to key criminal laws and the Family Protection Law to better meet international standards, working closely with international partners.
- Supported the Palestinian Civil Police Academy in Jericho by helping improve training programmes and specialised courses in policing and criminal justice.
- Expanded the Building Bridges project to strengthen cooperation within the justice system and the Society is Key project to improve ties between the police and civil society across the West Bank.



## European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EUBAM Rafah)



### Overview

Following the 2025 ceasefire in Gaza, the Mission briefly redeployed to Rafah (31 January-17 March), enabling 4,176 safe crossings into Egypt, and demonstrating its ability to resume operations swiftly when conditions permit. After the October 2025 UN-endorsed Gaza ceasefire plan, another opportunity for redeployment emerged, reaffirming the Mission's role in stabilising border operations.

During periods of limited access to the Rafah Crossing Point, EUBAM Rafah strengthened Palestinian border institutions by providing strategic advice, reform support, and training assessments, while helping to align Palestinian border practices with global standards. For nearly 20 years, the Mission has remained a cornerstone of the EU's long-term engagement in the region.

### Mandate

EUBAM Rafah is the EU Third Party presence at the Rafah Crossing Point on the Gaza-Egypt border in accordance with the Agreement on Movement and Access signed between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority in 2005. EUBAM Rafah is mandated to monitor, verify and evaluate the PA's performance at the Rafah Crossing Point.

### Achievements

- Redeployed to Rafah (31 January-17 March 2025), enabling the safe passage of 4,176 people into Egypt without incident following the first ceasefire.
- Advised the Ministry of the Interior and Palestinian General Authority for Borders and Crossings (GABC) on structural reforms and oversight functions.

- Supported the development of the GABC Business Strategy, strengthening standards and operational capacity.
- Completed joint Training and Equipment Needs Analyses to guide future capacity-building.

### Activities

- Advised on the Joint Redeployment Plan for Rafah.
- Provided strategic guidance to improve border management and interoperability.
- Delivered operational support at the Al-Karama Passenger Terminal (West Bank-Jordan crossing).
- Conducted basic training on threat detection, self-protection, and combating illegal activities.
- Delivered advanced Train-the-Trainer courses on detecting forged documents.
- Provided technical advice and coordinated donor support to align with Palestinian General Authority for Borders and Crossings (GABC) priorities.



## EU Advisory Mission in Iraq (EUAM Iraq)



### Overview

EUAM Iraq works closely with the EU Delegation, Member States, and international partners to support Iraq's civilian security sector reform at both federal and regional levels. Amid regional tensions and domestic challenges, the Mission promotes whole-of-government security planning, strengthens institutional coordination, and ensures Iraqi ownership of reforms.

Acting as a key facilitator, EUAM Iraq aligns international support – including with NATO, the UN, and EU actors – to ensure coherent, demand-driven assistance. The Mission integrates human rights, gender equality (Women, Peace and Security Agenda), and civil society engagement into security governance, fostering accountable and resilient institutions essential for Iraq's stability and regional security.

### Mandate

Established in 2017, the Mission advises Iraqi authorities on civilian aspects of Security Sector Reform. It supports the development and implementation of key national strategies, including the National Security Strategy (2025-2030) and other major security plans. It provides advice on institutional reform, governance, crisis management, and civilian oversight. Its work also covers counter-terrorism, preventing violent extremism, organised crime, border management (including irregular migration), climate and environmental security, and the integration of gender and human rights. Engagement with civil society is an important part of its approach.

### Achievements

- Strengthened its role as a strategic partner for long-term civilian security reform, deepening cooperation with key ministries and national bodies.
- Improved coordination between Iraqi institutions, EU actors, NATO Mission Iraq, and the United Nations to ensure more coherent international support.

- Promoted human rights, gender equality, environmental considerations, and civil society involvement in security reforms, including support to women's empowerment structures within the Ministry of Interior.

### Activities

- Supported the development and launch of Iraq's National Security Strategy (2025-2030) and helped plan its implementation.
- Assisted reforms in civilian policing, including better planning systems, leadership development, integrity and anti-corruption efforts, and more accountable, community-focused policing.
- Advised on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, including contributions to the 2026-2030 Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with a focus on human rights and prevention.
- Continued support on organised crime, anti-narcotics, corruption, and integrated border management, helping strengthen cooperation between Iraqi agencies and international partners.
- Facilitated strategic dialogues, workshops, and technical exchanges to improve coordination and ensure lasting reform progress.





## EU Capacity Building Mission in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali)



### Overview

The European Union Capacity Building Mission in support of Security Sector Reform in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali) was established at the request of Malian government in 2015 to help “to restore and maintain State authority and legitimacy, constitutional and democratic order and the conditions for lasting peace throughout the territory of Mali by means of an effective redeployment of the administration”. EUCAP Sahel Mali works closely with the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, the Internal Security Forces, with a special focus on Malian Police and the southern regions of Mali.

### Mandate

Established in 2015, EUCAP is organised into three Lines of Operations:

- 1) Strengthening the ethical standards of the Internal Security Forces;
- 2) Strengthening their structural capacities; and
- 3) Strengthening their operational capacities.

Activities include strategic advice, training, and projects across five priority areas: Civilian crisis management, Integrated border management, Internal Security Forces – Community relations, Access to justice and accountability, National training and Human resources systems.

## Achievements

- Expanded the emergency communication network (Bamako-Ségou-Sikasso) and supported reforms to the Crisis and Disaster Management Coordination Centre.
- Border management: Operationalised the Integrated Border Management Centre in Kourémalé, improving inter-agency cooperation and border security, including efforts against irregular migration and transnational crime.
- Community relations: Contributed to key security reform policies and supported the development of Consultative Security Committees to strengthen trust between security forces and communities.
- Access to justice: Provided human rights-based training for judicial actors and supported justice infrastructure, including the *Maison de Justice* in Mopti.
- Training systems: Helped modernise ISF training, updated curricula, and supported a gradual shift to digital tools.

## Activities

- Continued reinforcing ISF ethical, structural, and operational capacities.
- Supported legislative drafting, including revisions to the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code.
- Strengthened sustainable national training capacity through joint delivery with Malian trainers, including modules on human rights, gender equality, and ethics.
- Implemented a Human Rights Due Diligence mechanism and systematic vetting procedures.



## European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali)



### Overview

Established on 18 February 2013 at the request of the Malian Government and in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2085, EUTM Mali supported peace, stability, and capacity-building in the Sahel region for over eleven years. The Mission assisted the Malian Armed Forces through training, advice, and non-executive support across successive mandates, evolving from tactical training delivery to strategic advisory engagement at ministerial and general staff levels.

### Mandate

EUTM Mali was mandated to assist the Malian Armed Forces through training, advice, and non-executive support. Its scope extended to the armed forces of the G5 Sahel countries: Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad, contributing to the operationalisation of their Joint Force. The Mission integrated Train-the-Trainer principles, mobile advisory teams, and decentralised training to ensure long-term sustainability.

## Achievements

- Nearly 20,000 personnel trained across individual, unit, and command levels.
- Strategic advice provided to the Ministry of Defence, the General Staff, and regional military structures.
- Supported the armed forces of G5 Sahel countries and contributed to the operationalisation of their Joint Force, reinforcing regional cooperation.
- Maintained operational continuity through decentralised and mobile training formats despite disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the suspension of certain activities in later years.

## Activities

- Delivered training across individual, unit, and command levels through both centralised and decentralised formats.
- Deployed mobile advisory teams and embedded Train-the-Trainer programmes to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Provided strategic advice to the Ministry of Defence, the General Staff, and regional military structures.
- Concluded activities and redeployed to Europe on 18 May 2024, following the decision not to extend the mandate. A closure ceremony attended by senior Malian and European representatives marked the end of the Mission.

## Strategic Contribution

Over eleven years, EUTM Mali contributed to a more capable and self-sustaining Malian Armed Forces and reinforced regional security cooperation across the G5 Sahel. The shift toward advisory engagement and Train-the-Trainer delivery in its later years helped embed lasting capacity within national structures, consistent with the EU's broader approach to sustainable security sector reform.



## European Union Capacity Building Mission in Niger (EUCAP Sahel Niger) 2012-2024

### Overview

For over a decade, the EU Capacity Building Mission in Niger supported Nigerien security forces in countering terrorism, organised crime, and irregular migration. Operating in Niamey and Agadez, the Mission strengthened mobile border units (CMCF), improved crisis response coordination, and promoted human rights and gender equality in security operations. Despite its suspension in 2023 and closure in 2024, EUCAP Sahel Niger left a lasting legacy, including institutional frameworks and operational models that continue to enhance Niger's security resilience.



### Achievements

- Mobile unit capacity: The third National Police mobile unit reached full operational capability, and the first National Guard mobile unit was established with EUCAP support, improving rapid deployment in remote and high-risk areas.
- National mobile unit model: EUCAP developed a harmonised national model (structure, training, equipment, logistics) for mobile units. In June 2023, it was officially endorsed as the foundation for creating up to 12 units by 2025.
- Crisis management and interoperability: Supported the establishment of regional crisis centres and strengthened security councils. By July 2023, seven of eight regional crisis centres were operational, enhancing coordination among security forces and state authorities.

## Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell (RACC)<sup>1</sup>



### Overview

To address cross-border security challenges in the Sahel – including armed groups, trafficking, and instability – the EU established the Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell (RACC). This lightweight, adaptable structure supported G5 Sahel countries (notably Chad and Mauritania) in strengthening regional defence and security cooperation.

RACC enhanced coordination and information-sharing among regional and international partners, producing analytical reports on emerging threats to improve decision-making and policy responses. It also strengthened national security capacities, ensuring operations aligned with international law and human rights. In Chad, RACC delivered training on democratic crowd management for security forces (National Guard, Gendarmerie, and Police), promoting legal, proportional, and accountable public order practices. As part of the EU's integrated Sahel strategy, RACC played a strategic role in fostering stability, resilience, and regional cooperation.

### Mandate

Established in 2019, RACC supported the regionalisation of EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) action in the Sahel, combining civilian and military efforts to strengthen cross-border cooperation among Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Chad. Its two main objectives were to: 1) Support the regionalisation of CSDP action to reinforce national capacities and 2) Facilitate information exchange among Sahel Coalition partners in support of EU Delegations.

### Achievements

- Strengthened EU situational awareness through analytical and forward-looking security reports with practical recommendations.
- Supported democratic crowd management capacity in Chad by developing tailored training for security forces, in accordance with legality, proportionality, and human rights standards.
- Promoted awareness in Chad of protecting cultural heritage as a pillar of social cohesion, conflict prevention, and stability.

### Activities

- Provided strategic advice to EU-funded projects, promoting cross-border cooperation, rule of law, human rights, and gender mainstreaming.
- Produced regular security analyses and risk assessments for the region.
- Coordinated and delivered public order management training for Internal Security Forces in Mauritania and Chad.
- Conducted field missions along Mauritania's southern borders with Mali and Senegal to strengthen cross-border coordination and border security.

<sup>1</sup>RACC was closed on 31 January 2026, following a decision by the European Council.

## European Union Security and Defence Initiative in support of West African countries of the Gulf of Guinea (EU SDI GoG)



### Overview

The European Union Security and Defence Initiative in the Gulf of Guinea (EU SDI GoG), launched in 2023, is the EU's first combined military-civilian mission in the region, designed to counter rising insecurity in a strategically vital area where trade routes, organised crime, and Sahel-linked instability threaten West, Central, and Southern Africa. Responding to requests from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo, the initiative strengthens security governance, operational effectiveness, and trust between security forces and communities. EU SDI GoG has reinforced national security institutions, including supporting Ghana's new Human Resources Strategy for civilian security services to improve recruitment, professional standards, and career development, as well as assisting Benin's justice sector reforms for stronger governance. The initiative has also enhanced frontline capabilities, providing training and technical support to intelligence, immigration, police, and gendarmerie forces to better monitor threats, manage borders, and combat trafficking and terrorism. By combining security, defence, governance, and community engagement, EU SDI GoG plays a growing role in enhancing stability, resilience, and cooperation in the Gulf of Guinea.

### Mandate

Officially launched in 2023, EU SDI GoG supports Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo in strengthening security and defence capacities, particularly in response to instability spreading from the Sahel.

The Initiative operates under a demand-driven model with tailored advisory and training support. It combines civilian and military pillars in the EU's first integrated civilian-military initiative in the Gulf of Guinea and is coordinated by dedicated Brussels-based Command and Support Cells. EU SDI GoG deploys short-term experts, mobile training teams and mobile advisory teams based on partner-country requests.

### Achievements

- Institutional reform: supported Ghana's Human Resources Strategy for civilian security services and Benin's justice sector review.
- Operational capacity: trained defence, intelligence, immigration, police and gendarmerie services in areas including operational planning, logistics, IED awareness, UAV use, intelligence, cyber defence and medical support.
- Regional cooperation: strengthened cooperation between the Ghana Immigration Service and the *Académie Internationale de Lutte contre le Terrorisme*.
- Conflict prevention: organised inclusive security dialogues in northern Ghana.
- EU coordination: improved coherence and visibility of EU security engagement in the region.
- Military specialised courses: four specialised courses were delivered in Benin in 2024; 21 courses followed in 2025 across Benin, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, bringing the cumulative total since launch to 25.

## Activities

- Delivered specialised practical training across land, maritime, air, medical and joint domains, with around 2,400 certificates issued.
- Implemented a EUR 1.7 million equipment package for internal security forces.
- Supported aircraft, vehicle, weapons and optical-system maintenance, ammunition depot management, drone operations, intelligence analysis, cybersecurity and strategic communication.
- Facilitated bilateral and regional exchanges between partner-country security institutions.
- Provided strategic advice to partner ministries and EU Delegations while supporting coordination and mapping of EU security initiatives.



## THE HORN OF AFRICA



### European Union Naval Force Operation ATALANTA (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA)

#### Overview

At the end of 2008, the European Council adopted Resolution 2008/851/CFSP, supported by various UN resolutions, to establish the EU maritime military operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA to deter, prevent and repress acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia. Over time, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA has evolved to reflect the dynamic maritime security situation and geostrategic status in the complex Area of Operation (AOO), driving ATALANTA as a broader maritime security provider in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO).

#### Mandate

At the end of 2024, the European Council extended the mandate of EUNAVFOR ATALANTA until February 2027, focusing on the following tasks: deter, prevent and suppress piracy and armed robbery in the AOO and protect World Food Programme (WFP) vessels delivering food to Somalia and other vulnerable vessels transiting the region. ATALANTA is also combatting drug trafficking and contributing to the arms embargo against the Al-Shabaab terrorist group, as well as tackling Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Moreover, on 21 July 2025, the mandate was amended to include the non-executive task on collecting information on arms trafficking and shadow fleets.

## Achievements

ATALANTA's achievements over the past two years demonstrate both the effectiveness and the exceptional nature of its role in the regional maritime security architecture and as a key maritime diplomacy tool for the EU in the WIO.

- ATALANTA was involved in up to 45 piracy cases in 2024 and 2025. In a notable April 2024 incident, its forces detained six alleged pirates from the merchant vessel Crystal Arctic and transferred them to Seychellois courts. In November 2025, a multinational operation to free the merchant vessel Hellas Aphrodite and Iranian dhow Issamohamdi saw ATALANTA assets working alongside the Indian Navy, Japanese maritime patrol aircraft, Seychellois air forces, and Somali authorities.
- In early 2025, the ATALANTA Maritime Security Centre was relaunched as the Maritime Security Centre Indian Ocean (MSCIO), expanding its remit across the wider Indian Ocean and upgrading its web platform to support other EU missions in the region. Furthermore, the adoption of a Single Information Framework implementation among MSCIO, the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), the Joint Maritime Information Centre (JMIC), together with Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) and Industry Strategic Meeting (ISM) forums, have taken ATALANTA's relations with the shipping industry to a new level.
- A Working Arrangement was signed with EUROPOL in September 2025 to counter organised crime and other criminal areas affecting the mandates of both EUROPOL and ATALANTA. The document strengthens cooperation with EU agencies, making maritime security efforts more effective.
- ATALANTA fills a strategic gap in the EU's presence and influence in the WIO, going well beyond conventional naval diplomacy. Through joint operations, exercises, and capacity-building with regional partners, it gives the EU a tangible and active footprint in the area.

## Activities

During 2024-2025, Operation ATALANTA conducted maritime security operations, including escorts, exercises, and counter-piracy responses in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean.

Key events include:

- Escorts and Piracy Incidents: protected WFP vessel Lady Dimine (Dec 2025) and responded to piracy attacks on MV Hellas Aphrodite (Nov 2025), MV Chrystal Arctic (May 2024), and MV Abdullah (Mar-Apr 2024).
- Exercises and Engagement: led Doraleh II (Djibouti, Oct 2025), Usalama Baharini (Kenya, May 2024 and Nov 2025), and Aldabra III/IV (Seychelles, Oct 2024 and May 2025). Conducted first official visits to Somalia (Jan 2024) and India (Apr 2024).
- Strategic Developments: signed a Working Arrangement with EUROPOL (Sep 2025), amended the mandate to counter arms trafficking and shadow fleets (Jul 2025), and secured a mandate extension to Feb 2027 (Dec 2024).
- High-Level Visits: hosted EU High Representative Josep Borrell (Jul 2024) and Somali PM (Apr 2024) aboard EU naval assets.

The Mission also strengthened industry and regional partnerships through SHADE meetings (Dec 2024, Oct 2025) and Industry Strategic Meetings (Jun 2024 and 2025) in Madrid.



## European Union Naval Force Operation ASPIDES (EUNAVFOR ASPIDES)



### Overview

The European Union's Naval Force EUNAVFOR Operation ASPIDES is an EU defensive maritime security operation under the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The Area of Operation (AOO) encompasses the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea, the Sea of Oman, the Arabian/Persian Gulf, and the NW Indian Ocean. Operation EUNAVFOR ASPIDES was officially launched and commenced operations on 19 February 2024. ASPIDES acts in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 2722 and 2768, which demand the cessation of Houthi attacks on merchants and commercial vessels and recognises the right to defend vessels against such attacks, in line with international law.

### Mandate

The operation's mandate includes protecting vessels against ongoing attacks (executive task), accompanying vessels (non-executive task) and reinforcing maritime situational awareness - such as assessing possible threats and sharing information on arms trafficking and on shadow fleets - in coordination with like-minded partners (non-executive task).

## Activities

Since its launch, ASPIDES has responded to multiple maritime incidents, rescuing crews from vessels such as MV Sounion, MV Isa Star, Minervagracht, and Falcon. It has also coordinated rescue efforts when no local authorities intervened and supported salvage operations to prevent wider crises. Since 2024, a total of 128 seafarers have been saved.

ASPIDES has supported over 1,640 merchant vessels, with more than 630 receiving close protection. During these operations, 16 ships were attacked, but all assaults were successfully repelled without loss of life or significant damage. The Mission neutralised multiple threats, including UAVs, USVs, and ballistic missiles, demonstrating precise and responsible use of force.

## Achievements

ASPIDES has strengthened diplomatic ties with regional partners while ensuring seafarers receive timely and accurate threat information. This has improved trust within the maritime industry and increased preparedness in high-risk areas. Beyond security, the operation has worked with regional actors to prevent environmental disasters such as oil spills, helping protect marine ecosystems and local economies. In addition, ASPIDES has actively countered misinformation campaigns by Houthi forces. By providing reliable, fact-based intelligence, the Mission helps the maritime industry better assess risks and resist intimidation.

During 2024 and 2025, ASPIDES, through its commander, participated in numerous high-level conferences, while also hosting meetings with the HR/VP, the EU's Security and Defence Committee (SEDE Committee) and Politico-Military Group (PMG). A number of high-level visits were also conducted, building diplomatic ties with regional countries and international stakeholders.



## European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP Somalia)

### Overview

Since its launch in 2012, the European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP Somalia) has supported Somali authorities in combating piracy, trafficking, and institutional fragility by strengthening maritime security and policing capacities. For over a decade, it has been instrumental in building sustainable security institutions, from trained police forces to modern legal frameworks, that protect citizens, secure maritime routes, and stabilise the Horn of Africa. Operating from Mogadishu, Puntland, and Somaliland, the Mission provides expertise, training, and strategic advice to build a sustainable, Somali-owned security system that enhances



state legitimacy and public trust. The Mission has also supported legal reforms to ensure security institutions operate under clear, internationally aligned mandates. In maritime security, EUCAP has helped to establish the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (Mogadishu) and Maritime Command Centre (Berbera), enhancing situational awareness, search-and-rescue, and anti-piracy efforts. In Puntland, it has strengthened the Maritime Police Force's oversight and operations, including updated protocols for the Maritime Operations Centre to combat piracy, illegal fishing, and maritime crimes.

## Mandate

The Mission's mandate consists of three pillars: 1) advise, train and equip the Federal Police Force, 2) strengthen maritime police and coast guard functions in Mogadishu, Berbera and Bosasso and 3) support rule of law and regional maritime cooperation.

## Achievements

- Conducted the first ever Somali Police Force Federal Darwish pilot training conducted on Somali soil, resulting in 100 graduates. Following this pilot course, EUCAP trained and equipped another 220 FD in two three-month courses, including 21 female officers.
- Supported the drafting of the Federal Police Act, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Federal Antipiracy Bill, and the International Judicial Cooperation Bill.
- Built and operationalised the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Mogadishu and the Maritime Command Centre in Berbera, to strengthen Somalia's maritime safety and security by enhancing maritime situational awareness, regional information sharing and collaboration, and response readiness.
- Strengthened oversight mechanism of the Puntland Maritime Police Force and revised internal operational procedures to improve the Puntland Maritime Operations Centre effectiveness to tackle piracy.

## Activities

- Trained and equipped the Somali Police Force Federal Darwish to carry out stabilisation operations in full respect of rule of law.
- Delivered leadership training and supported the establishment of a planning process to prepare operational deployments of police units.
- Conducted joint training and exercises with Somali partners and EUNAVFOR Operation ATALANTA, the EU co-funded Joint Police Programme and the Red Sea Programme.
- Supported regional information-sharing platforms.
- Developed the maritime police unit coast guard functions in key coastal cities.



## European Union Training Mission in Somalia (EUTM Somalia)

### Overview

Since its launch on 7 April 2010, the European Union Training Mission Somalia has been a central pillar of the European Union's engagement in the security sector of Somalia. Over successive mandates, the Mission has evolved from delivering tactical infantry training abroad to providing strategic advice and supporting the development of a fully Somali-owned training and command system. The years 2024 and 2025, marking the conclusion of the 8th Mandate and the consolidation of advisory and training efforts, represented a significant phase in this long-term commitment.



### Mandate

Under its 8th Mandate (2022-2024), EUTM Somalia supported the development of accountable, nationally aligned Somali Security Forces through strategic advice to the Ministry of Defence and Somali National Army (SNA), alongside mentoring and training at the General Dhabagaban Training Centre (GDTC). Coordinating with EUCAP Somalia, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, and partners like UNSOM, the Mission ensured alignment with the EU's integrated approach. Over eight mandates, EUTM shifted from tactical training abroad to advisory support in Mogadishu, fostering a Somali-Owned Training System (SOTS). The Mission also supported the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan and security coordination frameworks.

## Achievements and Activities

In 2025, EUTM Somalia deepened its advisory engagement and reinforced sustainable training.

### Advisory Team

- 2,179 hours of direct engagement with Somali counterparts (up from the previous year).
- 11 computer seminars, training 94 military and civilian personnel.
- 12 medical seminars, training 93 trainees, plus specialist medical support for 269 patients.
- 2 Public Information Officer seminars, training 22 officers in strategic communication.

Overall impact: strengthened administrative systems, operational support, and public outreach within Somali security institutions.

### Training Team

- 28 courses delivered with 1,232 enrolled trainees.
- Flagship 12-week Basic Officers Course for 95 participants, covering:
  - Leadership and logistics.
  - Topography and Counter-IED procedures.
  - Combat lifesaving and forward operating base management.
  - Train-the-Trainer approach embedded throughout to ensure long-term self-reliance.
  - Coordination with international partners in Mogadishu to complement efforts and avoid duplication.

## Strategic Contribution

Throughout 2024 and 2025, EUTM Somalia strengthened both operational capability and institutional resilience within the Somali Security Forces. By combining strategic advice, leadership development and specialised training, the Mission advanced the establishment of a Somali Owned Training System and reinforced ministerial oversight. Through sustained engagement and close coordination with EU and international actors, EUTM Somalia continues to contribute to the long-term objective of a stable, secure and self-reliant Somalia anchored in accountable governance, professional leadership and nationally owned defence structures.



## CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



### European Union Training Mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM RCA)

#### Overview

Since its establishment, the European Union Training Mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM RCA) has supported the reform and professionalisation of the armed forces of the Central African Republic. In 2024 and 2025, the Mission entered a phase of consolidation and strategic refocus, shifting emphasis from operational training toward leadership development, institutional reform and sustainable capacity-building.



#### Mandate

Under a renewed mandate extended by the Council of the European Union until 19 September 2025, EUTM RCA maintained its advisory role while concentrating on two core pillars: providing strategic advice to the Ministry of National Defence and the FACA General Staff and strengthening military education for future leaders. While the Mission stands ready to resume broader training when conditions permit, priority during this period has been placed on non-operational domains: leadership, institutional structuring, military education and long-term defence planning. The objective remains to support modern, effective and democratically accountable Central African Armed Forces (FACA) with quality input.

## Achievements

### 2024

#### *Training and Education*

- Established the NCO School, launching its first course in December with 85 participants (77 FACA, 8 Gendarmerie).
- Train-the-Trainers programme prepared 22 instructors.
- 50 students enrolled in the one-year NCO curriculum.
- Preparations advanced for reopening the Officers' School, including curriculum development and student selection.

#### *Strategic Advisory*

- Supported validation of the National Defence Policy and Strategy (Sep-Oct 2024), approved by the President in February 2025.
- Assisted in drafting the Military Programming Law (2026-2030).
- Promoted compliance with International Humanitarian Law, human rights, and gender equality.

### 2025

#### *Training and Education*

- 24-week NCO course delivered (leadership, topography, English) alongside specialised courses in communications and health for 124 personnel.
- Rehabilitated infrastructure at Kassai Camp (Officers' School) and the NCO School, including female-friendly facilities to promote gender inclusion.

#### *Strategic Advisory*

- Continued advisory support for defence planning, working groups, and database development to ensure long-term sustainability.

## Strategic Contribution

Through its combined focus on education, governance and infrastructure, EUTM RCA has reinforced the foundations of a professional and self-sustaining military institution. By prioritising leadership development and institutional reform, the Mission contributes to long-term stability and national ownership. Its efforts in 2024-2025 demonstrate that durable security sector reform depends not only on operational capability, but also on accountable governance, structured education and resilient national systems.





## European Union Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA)

### Overview

The European Union Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA) supports the country's security sector reform, helping police, gendarmerie, and other institutions become more accountable, transparent, and effective in protecting citizens and upholding the rule of law. In a nation recovering from years of conflict, the Mission provides strategic advice, training, and practical assistance to rebuild state authority and public trust.

By strengthening legal frameworks, professional standards, and institutional accountability, EUAM RCA contributes to long-term stability, helping the Central African Republic build a security system that protects citizens and restores trust in state institutions.



### Mandate

Established in 2019, EUAM RCA provides advice on transforming and redeploying internal security forces nationwide and supports institutional reform, interoperability and rule of law. Since October 2024, its mandate includes assistance measures (train and equip). It also integrates human rights, gender equality and democratic oversight into all activities.

## Achievements

- Drafted the Framework Law on the Organisation of the Internal Security System, clarifying roles and strengthening legal foundations.
- Streamlined six decrees for the National Gendarmerie.
- Established permanent legislative drafting committees within police and gendarmerie.
- Revised codes of ethics and supported anti-trafficking measures.
- Introduced IT tools to combat trafficking and poaching.

## Activities

- Delivered short- and long-term training on judicial police skills, leadership, ethics and human rights.
- Strengthened border management through multi-agency training and SOP development.
- Conducted major prison crisis-management exercises (Ngaragba, Bouar, Bambari).
- Coordinated closely with EU and international partners, including United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA) in the Central African Republic.
- Through legal reform, training, equipment and coordination, EUAM RCA continues to support a more professional, accountable and effective security system in the CAR.



## European Union Training Mission in Mozambique (EUTM Mozambique) 2021-2024



### Overview

In October 2021, at the request of the Government of Mozambique, the European Union launched the European Union Training Mission Mozambique (EUTM MOZ) to support the Mozambican Armed Defence Forces (FADM) in addressing the terrorist threat destabilising Cabo Delgado province. The Mission formed part of a broader EU integrated approach combining political dialogue, humanitarian aid, development cooperation and security assistance.

### Mandate

Established as a non-executive Mission, EUTM MOZ was mandated to train and equip selected FADM units to become effective Quick Reaction Forces (QRFs), capable of restoring security while operating in full compliance with International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. The Mission reached Initial Operational Capability in November 2021 and Full Operational Capability in September 2022. By 1 September 2024, it had completed 100% of its objectives.

## Achievements and Activities

### Training and Capacity-Building

- Deployed around 120 personnel from EU Member States and partners.
- Trained over 1,700 Mozambican soldiers between 2021 and 2024, forming 11 rapid reaction units
- Trained Air Force personnel in air-ground coordination.
- Certified 100 local instructors to ensure sustainable, independent training capability.
- 36 specialised training programmes delivered in 2025 to over 800 personnel, covering logistics, leadership, and command.

### Equipment and Infrastructure

- EUR 89 million European Peace Facility package provided vehicles, boats, communications systems, and a field hospital.
- Improved operational capacity and civilian protection.
- Emphasis on equipment maintenance to sustain operational readiness.

### Advisory and Strategic Support

- From 2024, shifted focus to consolidating progress and advising the armed forces.
- Integrated human rights, gender equality, and accountability across activities.

### Civil-Military Relations

- Civil-military projects strengthened community trust.
- Expanded civil-military cooperation
- Improved transparency through outreach and media engagement.

### Strategic Contribution

From 2021 to 2024, the EU Mission in Mozambique trained and equipped Quick Reaction Forces, building the basis for operational autonomy. On 1 September 2024, it transitioned into EUMAM MOZ, shifting from direct training to mentoring and advisory support at Mozambique's request.



## European Union Military Assistance Mission Mozambique (EUMAM Mozambique)



### Overview

On 1 September 2024, following Mozambican authorities' request, the EUTM MOZ Mission transitioned into the European Union Military Assistance Mission Mozambique (EUMAM MOZ). This evolution reflected a strategic shift from direct training to mentoring, advising and assisting.

### Mandate

The new mandate, running until 31 December 2026, aims to ensure that the 11 QRF units become fully self-sufficient in planning, deploying and sustaining operations. The Mission remains non-executive and is financed through the European Peace Facility.

### Activities and Achievements 2024

- Consolidated gains and adapted advisory frameworks to FADM needs.
- Integrated human rights, IHL, gender equality, and accountability across all activities.
- Particular focus on preventing sexual and gender-based violence and protecting children affected by armed conflict.

## 2025

### *Training*

36 specialised training programmes delivered to over 800 Mozambican personnel, covering:

- Command and Control
- Logistics, Maintenance and Transport
- Leadership and Military Pedagogy
- Strategic Communication and Civil-Military Cooperation

### *Advisory*

- Institutional advising provided to the FADM General Staff
- Focus on logistical sustainability and effective management of European Peace Facility equipment

### *Civil-Military and Communications*

- Expanded civil-military engagement through outreach and participation in multi-institutional counter-terrorism efforts.
- Media workshop delivered to improve public understanding of the Mission's mandate.
- European-level recognition received, reflecting the Mission's growing maturity and impact

## Strategic Contribution

Since 2024, EUMAM MOZ has consolidated the EUTM MOZ achievements by embedding mentoring, sustainability and institutional resilience within national structures.

The Mission illustrates the evolution of EU engagement in Mozambique: from generating combat-ready units to fostering long-term self-sufficiency and accountable security governance. As the mandate progresses toward 2026, the EU's support remains focused on strengthening Mozambique's capacity to ensure stability in Cabo Delgado, anchored in professionalism, respect for human rights and durable national ownership.



## PART 2

# FIMI as a Rising Challenge for CSDP

## Missions and Operations



## Countering FIMI in CSDP Missions and Operations

CSDP missions and operations have increasingly integrated the dimension of countering foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) for their own internal resilience, when needed, reflecting its emergence as a growing and systematic security threat.

In 2024 and 2025, **Ukraine** remained the most intensively targeted EU partner by FIMI linked to Russia's broader strategy in its war of aggression. Coordinated networks of state media, proxies and online social channels sought to undermine CSDP support for Ukraine while eroding trust in both Western assistance and Ukrainian institutions.

At the same time, **Moldova** faced a large-scale FIMI campaign targeting its democratic electoral process, aimed at undermining the country's EU integration trajectory. Similar patterns were also observed in **Armenia**, where the EU civilian mission is regularly targeted by disinformation campaigns since its deployment in 2023. In 2025, Armenia ranked among the top 15 countries most targeted by FIMI.

In the EU's southern neighbourhood, **Africa** experienced an intensification of information manipulation, often targeting young audiences. Parts of the **Sahel** and **West Africa** were exposed to sustained campaigns linked to Russia's private military ecosystem around the Wagner Group.

In parallel, networks associated with African Initiative amplified narratives, portraying the EU and its missions and operations as neo-colonial and exploitative. In the **Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden**, propaganda campaigns orchestrated by the Yemeni Houthis increasingly sought to undermine the effectiveness of the EU's ASPIDES naval operation. Through coordinated use of social media, these campaigns inflated claims of operational success, with 56% of reported 'victories' assessed by the EEAS as false.

Across the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**, adversarial actors exploited existing sectarian grievances through coordinated information manipulation, amplifying polarisation, while simultaneously delegitimising EU CSDP engagement in conflict-affected environments.



**The European Union Mission in Armenia (EUMA)** was by far the most targeted mission in 2024 and 2025. Russian is widely spoken across Armenia – meaning that Russian information manipulation activities encounter little friction. During the observation period, foreign outlets, including pro-Kremlin channels, widely disseminated narratives dismissing the role of EUMA or distorting its mandate.

**The European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) ASPIDES** was regularly targeted by Houthis controlled and aligned channels with accusations of supporting Israel, enabling the war in Gaza or mocked as inefficient. The information attacks against ASPIDES are mostly opportunistic, associated with specific events and aimed to justify the Houthis' legitimacy and their strikes against civilian merchant ships such as Eternity C, Magic Seas and Minervagracht.

**The European Union Training Mission in Central African Republic (EUTM RCA)** was also occasionally targeted by disinformation campaigns in 2025, by unreliable news websites and articles accusing the Mission of sovereignty interference, opportunistically relayed by Russian-aligned channels.

These developments illustrate a persistent pattern: FIMI increasingly targets conflict-affected areas and environments of heightened geopolitical competition. While tactics and targets vary, taken together, they outline a persistent pattern with a shared objective: to undermine European credibility in the eyes of the host countries and local populations, to erode trust in partnerships and to disrupt CSDP missions and operations in their mandate implementation.

**FIMI risks for CSDP missions and operations do not manifest in isolation.** They unfold in interconnected dimensions: reputational impact, mandate distortion and in most severe cases, security implications. What often begins as hostile narratives can, over time, complicate relations with local partners and ultimately hinder operational impact. In most acute scenarios, such dynamics might result in hostility against the EU presence, placing personnel and assets under security risks.

In response, and in recognition of the evolving security landscape, countering FIMI in the CSDP context has become an integral part of the Union's external action. **The Strategic Compass for Security and Defence** reflects this shift, embedding counter-FIMI efforts within a more integrated approach

to missions and operations support. Within this framework, capabilities to detect, analyse and respond to FIMI are now increasingly incorporated into CSDP missions' activities, reinforcing situational awareness, pre-bunking and resilience.



Throughout 2024 and 2025, this translated into concrete actions. The EEAS, through its Division for Information Integrity and Countering FIMI (STRAT.4) worked together with the Civilian Operations Headquarters (CivOpsHQ), the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) and the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) to strengthen three key areas.

**First, analytical and detection capabilities were enhanced**, equipping missions with tools to better identify and assess FIMI in their areas of operation. A total of 86 training sessions were conducted on how to use and implement these tools in day-to-day tasks.

**Second, capacity building was reinforced** as a central pillar, including targeted training sessions and the development of the first-ever counter-FIMI Handbook for civilian CSDP missions in 2025, which was also shared with military CSDP missions and operations, fostering a common methodology and a unified approach. The Handbook was successfully tested in Moldova and Armenia – two of the missions most exposed to Russian FIMI activities. In parallel, CSDP counter-FIMI training was developed and made available on the European Union’s E-learning platform. It has proven to be a valuable resource for enhancing CSDP awareness and strengthening the ability to identify, analyse and respond effectively to FIMI.

**Third**, operational coordination and strategic communications were strengthened through the development of **dedicated crisis response packages**, fully operationalised to ensure missions prioritise their responses to FIMI during periods of intensified information pressure. Efforts focused on more systematic integration of counter-FIMI considerations into planning and decision-making processes.

**Beyond internal support**, the EEAS’s work on building resilience towards FIMI also extended to partner countries. In **Moldova** for instance, CSDP engagement contributed to strengthening the national capacities to detect, analyse and counter FIMI. This strand demonstrated the added value of equipping partners to address these threats directly. This approach is increasingly recognised as essential to addressing FIMI upstream and mitigating its impact closer to EU borders.

As threat actors increasingly weaponise information in conflict environments, reinforcing the capacity of EU missions and operations against FIMI will remain a crucial component of the EU’s response. While information manipulation is as old as war itself, what has changed is the scale, speed and sophistication with which it can now be conducted through social media platforms, AI and coordinated influence networks, transforming it into a central instrument of modern conflict, capable of shaping political and security outcomes far beyond the battlefield.

Consistency in approach and continuous adaptation to evolving tactics are key to maintaining the Union’s credibility in increasingly contested information spaces. At the same time, the EU’s responses remain proportionate and aligned with its democratic values.



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## EU law and related documents

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The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, both for commercial and non-commercial purposes.







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