



EU COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP) **MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS**

Approximately 4,000 EU military and civilian personnel are currently deployed on CSDP missions and operations in three continents. These missions contribute to international peace and security while strengthening the protection of EU citizens.

Through the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the European Union has the capacity to deploy civilian and military missions and operations beyond its borders. Their mandates range from conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and crisis response to military advice, capacity-building, and post-conflict stabilisation.

BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE - ADAPTING TO NEW SECURITY CHALLENGES

Since 2003, the EU has launched and run over 40 operations and missions on three continents. As of today, there are **21 ongoing CSDP missions and operations**, of which 12 are civilian, 4 are military and one is civilian-military.

Since the launch of the first missions and operations, the EU has continuously enhanced its structures, mechanisms and tools to promote peace, stability and security in our neighbourhood and beyond, thereby contributing to increased security in the EU.

A TOOL FOR SECURITY

Instability beyond EU borders can have direct consequences for the security of European citizens. CSDP missions and operations are designed to:

- Prevent and respond to conflicts and crises
- Support peace processes and post-conflict stabilisation
- Strengthen the security and defence capacities of partner countries
- Promote international law and multilateral cooperation

Missions and operations are deployed in accordance with international law, at the request of partner countries or following United Nations Security Council Resolutions. Their mandates are aligned with EU strategic priorities and regional engagement frameworks.

PLANNING AND CONDUCT PROCEDURES

> Decision making: Missions and operations are established and launched by Council of the EU. Decisions requiring unanimity among EU Member States. Planning follows established Crisis Management Procedures.

> Personnel and Capabilities: Contributions, including personnel and assets, are primarily provided by EU Member States. Third countries may also participate, facilitated through Framework Participation Agreements (20 signed to date).

> Command and Control:

- Civilian missions are led by the Civilian Operations Commander, supported by the the [Civilian Operations Headquarters for Civilian CSDP missions \(CIVOPSHQ\)](#).
- Non-executive military missions (e.g. EU Training Missions in CAR, Somalia, Mozambique) are commanded from Brussels by the [Military Planning and Conduct Capability \(MPCC\)](#).
- Executive military operations (e.g. EUNAVFOR MED IRINI) typically operate from operational headquarters provided by a framework nation.
- Under the Berlin Plus arrangements, the EU may also rely on NATO structures (e.g. EUFOR Althea).

> Financing Mechanism: Civilian missions are financed from the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) budget.

Military operations are funded through the [European Peace Facility \(EPF\)](#), which also enables the provision of military equipment to partner-forces when necessary.

