



# EU MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS

EU COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

Around 4,000 EU military and civilian staff are currently deployed in CSDP missions and operations in three continents, working for a more stable world and contributing to a safer Europe



**“Diplomacy requires action to succeed. Our missions and operations are an invaluable pillar of European security and defence. Their work on the ground and across continents is the tangible example of the EU’s action for global security.”**

**JOSEP BORRELL**

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

The EU’s Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) provides the European Union with an operational capacity to deploy civilian and military missions and operations abroad.

Their tasks range from conflict prevention and peace-keeping, crisis management, joint disarmament operations, and military advice and assistance tasks to humanitarian and rescue and post-conflict stabilisation tasks.

## BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE – ADAPTING TO NEW SECURITY CHALLENGES

Since 2003 the EU has launched and run over 40 operations and missions already on three continents. As of today, there are 22 ongoing CSDP missions and operations, of which 13 are civilian and 9 military.

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

## A TOOL FOR SECURITY

What happens beyond the EU’s borders has a direct impact on the security of European citizens. CSDP missions and operations contribute to global security abroad and at home. Their aim is to help prevent or resolve conflicts and crises, enhance the capacities of partners and, ultimately, protect the European Union and its citizens.

EU decisions to deploy a mission or operation are normally taken at the request of the partner country to which assistance is provided and/or based on a United Nations Security Council Resolution, and always in full respect of international law. These decisions take into account the EU’s security interests, EU strategic efforts and regional engagement strategies. They are tailored to the local circumstances and to the tasks that need to be implemented.

CSDP missions and operations can be open to contributions of third States. Up to now, 20 Framework Participation Agreements (FPA) have been signed to facilitate such participation.



## PLANNING AND CONDUCT PROCEDURES

> **Decision making:** Decisions to establish and to launch missions and operations require the approval of all Member States through a Council Decision. The planning process is governed by crisis management procedures.

> **Force Generation:** The majority of assets and personnel required for military as well as civilian missions and operations are provided by Member States.

> **Command and Control Structures:** during the conduct phase, the Political and Security Committee exercises political control and strategic direction of both civilian and military missions and operations, under the authority of the Council and the High Representative. Each mission and operation has a single and identifiable chain of command for its safe and efficient conduct:

- For military operations with an executive mandate (e.g. EUNAVFOR MED IRINI in the Mediterranean), an operational headquarters is usually provided by a Member State acting as a framework nation.
- Alternatively, the EU can also have recourse to NATO command structures under the Berlin- Plus agreements (e.g. EUFOR Althea in Bosnia- Herzegovina).
- The military training missions in the Central African Republic, Mali, Somalia and Mozambique operate under one command located in Brussels – the Military Planning and Conduct Capability ([MPCC](#)).
- All civilian missions and operations are commanded by the EU Civilian Operations Commander who is supported by the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) of the EEAS

> **Financing Mechanism:** Civilian missions are financed through the CFSP budget. The common costs of military operations cannot be funded by the EU budget and are instead covered by Member States through the European Peace Facility.

