

EU missions and operations abroad

SUMMARY

Military operations and missions, and civilian missions, are an essential component of the EU's common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and, in particular, of its common security and defence policy (CSDP). In an extremely volatile security and geopolitical environment, both at its eastern and southern borders and further afield, the EU has always sought, when launching its operations and missions abroad, to help countries and regions in crisis to restore peace, security and development. This is in the interests of their own citizens and residents as well as those of their neighbours, and is also in conformity with EU values and interests.

There are currently 23 CFSP missions and operations ongoing, one of which was launched by the Council 20 years ago. Half of the military operations and missions (5 out of 10), and a quarter of the civilian missions (4 out of 16) were launched during the European Parliament's ninth term (2019–2024). The Council also launched a new hybrid type of civilian–military mission during this period, the EU security and defence initiative for countries in the Gulf of Guinea – to address the effective or potential withdrawal of EU operations and missions from Niger and Mali.

The funding of missions and operations, and selection of leaders, differs between military operations and missions and civilian missions. Military operations with an 'executive' mandate allowing the use of force are in a separate category from military training missions whose mandate is not executive. The Treaty ban on using the EU budget to fund CFSP and CSDP activities having security or defence implications has meanwhile resulted in a highly complex funding architecture for these EU operations and missions.

Operation and mission staff include international staff from participating Member States and some non-EU States, in addition to local staff from the deployment countries. Women are notably absent in the highest command positions of the military operations and missions, and very few have been appointed as heads of civilian missions.



IN THIS BRIEFING

- Introduction
- CSDP: Legal framework, main actors and tools
- Framework for operations and missions
- Operations and missions currently active or recently closed
- Annex: Map showing EU military operations and missions, and civilian missions



Introduction

With its 8 active military operations and missions, and 15 active civilian missions, the EU currently has an estimated 3 000 EU military and 1 000 civilian staff [deployed](#) on three continents. Most are in Africa, some are in the EU's eastern neighbourhood, and in Asia (Middle East, Indian Ocean) and since 2022 there have also been missions active in Europe, including in the EU itself.

CSDP: Legal framework, main actors and tools

EU missions and operations abroad constitute one of the most visible aspects of the EU's common security and defence policy ([CSDP](#)), the security and defence arm of the its common foreign and security policy (CFSP). The CSDP is 'the main policy framework through which Member States can develop a European strategic culture of security and defence, address conflicts and crises together, protect the Union and its citizens, and strengthen international peace and security'. A series of provisions of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), which entered into force in 2009, constitute the legal basis for the CSDP: [Articles 21 and 22](#) set out the general provisions of the EU's external action; [Articles 23 to 41](#) are common to the CFSP and the CSDP, while [Articles 42 to 46](#) are CSDP-specific. Protocols and declarations annexed to the TEU complete the legal framework.¹

The [formulation](#) of the CSDP, including the establishment and launch of missions and operations abroad, is the responsibility of the Council. In practice, this means the Member States, which deploy actors at operational level following Council decisions on individual missions and operations. The Council's Political and Security Committee (PSC) – composed of Brussels-based Member States' ambassadors and chaired by European External Action Service ([EEAS](#)) representatives – exercises political control and oversees the strategic direction of all CSDP operations and missions, under the responsibility of the HR/VP and the Council. At the broader EU policy level, it is the EEAS that implements the EU's external action including both CSDP and CFSP).

The European Parliament has a general political scrutiny role in CFSP and CSDP matters: the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission (HR/VP) is obliged to consult Parliament regularly on the 'main aspects and basic choices' on CFSP and CSDP and to inform it of 'how those policies evolve'. The HR/VP must also ensure that Parliament's views 'are duly taken into consideration' ([Article 36 TEU](#)). Parliament also has oversight of the EEAS, since the [declaration of political accountability](#) the HR/VP signed in 2010.

Voting in the Council

The decision to establish a CSDP military or civilian operation or mission, or initiative, requires unanimity in the Council (Article 31(1) TEU). However Article 31 TEU incorporates various means for the Council to decide by [qualified majority vote](#):

- the CFSP-specific passerelle clause of Article 31(3) TEU (not yet used and itself requiring unanimity) and the four exceptions in Article 31(2) TEU – although Article 31(4) rules out these two ways for decisions with military or defence implications;
- the 'constructive abstention' mechanism of Article 31(1) TEU, which allows any Member State to abstain from a unanimous decision in Council by making a formal declaration relieving them of the obligation to apply the respective decision, without obstructing its adoption and application by the other Member States (used to adopt the decision creating the civilian CSDP mission EULEX Kosovo in 2008).

Strategic Compass

The [Strategic Compass](#) for Security and Defence, [adopted](#) by the Council on 21 March 2022, and endorsed by the European Council on 24 and 25 March 2022, took into account the new security context emerging from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The key points of the Compass regarding CSDP missions and operations include: a stronger and faster EU response to crises (with or without partners); improved mandates, more flexible decision-making, and financial support for existing missions and operations; a new agreement for faster civilian deployments; and increased

use of the European Peace Facility to assist partners. Following the Compass, the Council approved in May 2023 the [new Civilian CSDP Compact](#), building on the first Compact of November 2018 and strengthening the effectiveness and capabilities of civilian missions.

Funding of CFSP and CSDP expenditure

According to [Article 41\(1\)TEU](#), administrative expenditure for implementation of the CFSP and CSDP must be charged to the EU budget. Under Article 41(2), subparagraph 1, however, operating expenditure with military or defence implications is charged not to the EU budget but to the Member States, on the basis of their gross national income, unless the Council unanimously decides otherwise ([Article 41\(2\), subparagraph 2, TEU](#)). Only expenditure with no military or defence implications can therefore be charged to the budget.²

European Peace Facility

[Council Decision \(CFSP\) 2021/509](#) of 22 March 2021 created the [European Peace Facility](#) (EPF), as a way to address the Treaty ban on using the EU budget to fund EU military actions. As an off-budget tool funded by EU Member States' contributions, the [EPF](#) allows worldwide funding of CFSP actions with military and defence implications. Its current budget (2021-2027) is €17 billion. It enables the EU to fund: the common costs of military missions and operations (replacing the [Athena mechanism](#)), peace support operations of EU partner countries or organisations, and broader military action (replacing the African Peace Facility).

Framework for operations and missions

Definitions

Articles 42 and 43 TEU mention both 'missions' and 'operations'. The term mission is used generically for any CSDP task outside the Union (i.e. peace-keeping, conflict prevention, strengthening international security). The one mention of 'operations' is in a reference to 'joint disarmament operations' that may involve both civilian and military means.

Among all EU 'missions' outside the EU, only military missions with an '[executive mandate](#)' – i.e. those where force may be used – are officially named 'operations'.³

Leadership

Military operations have both an operation commander at the [operational headquarters \(OHQ\)](#) and a force commander in the deployment country. A Member State acting as a 'framework nation' usually provides the OHQ; this is the case for operations ASPIDES, IRINI, and ATALANTA. The [Berlin Plus agreements](#) also allow NATO's command structures to be used as the OHQ for EU military operations; this is the case for EUFOR Althea.

Military missions have both a mission commander at OHQ in Brussels and a mission force commander in the deployment country – except for the mission for Ukraine, which has two mission force commanders (and two force command centres) in Member States Germany and Poland. The OHQ for military missions is the Military Planning and Conduct Capability ([MPCC](#)) Directorate in the EEAS in Brussels. The current force commander for military missions is Lieutenant General Michiel van der Laan. He has been Director General of the [EU Military Staff](#) since June 2023, at OHQ (MPCC).

Civilian missions have both a 'civilian operation commander' at Brussels HQ – currently Stefano Tomat, Managing Director of the EEAS Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability ([CPCC](#)) – and a head of mission in the deployment country. Contrasting with the diversity in the chain of command of military missions and operations, the CPCC hosts a single headquarters (HQ) for all civilian missions whose mandate is 'non-executive'. The exception is EULEX Kosovo, which has a limited executive mandate.

Staffing and efforts towards gender parity in top positions

Missions and operations include international staff, seconded from participating EU Member States – and to a lesser extent from non-EU countries – and local staff, recruited in the country of the deployment of the operation or mission. No woman has been appointed operation commander or force commander of the 10 military operations or missions or as civilian operation commander, and only five women have been appointed heads of mission out of the 16 CSDP civilian missions. This figure lags behind the Member States' commitment from the [2018 civilian CSDP compact](#) to increase the representation of women in civilian CSDP missions at all levels. At the [end of 2016](#) only 20 % of staffers in CSDP civilian missions were women, and this figure was just 3 to 8% in the military operations and missions. There was however gender parity among the heads of the 10 civilian missions at that time.

Funding

Military operations and missions are funded only marginally from the EPF (operations pillar) and that is for their 'common costs'. The bulk of their costs are financed at national level, mainly by EU Member States. Some non-EU countries contribute to operations and missions under framework participation agreements. In contrast, the civilian missions are funded entirely from the EU budget, namely from the [CFSP budget line](#), under Heading 6 of the 2021–2027 multiannual financial framework – Neighbourhood and the world. In addition, both military and civilian operations and missions can benefit from assistance measures funded from the EPF (assistance pillar).

Common costs, distinct from running costs paid by the states participating in the missions, are incidental costs of military operations and missions, funded from the EPF's operations pillar, and representing a small share ([5 to 10 %](#)) of the total costs of a given military operation or mission. Annexes II to V of the EPF Decision provide a list of these costs, which are funded jointly by EU Member States.

Operations and missions currently active or recently closed

Under the 2019–2024 legislature, the Council launched five new military operations and missions and four new civilian missions and initiatives.

To facilitate comparison, the annual budget is estimated per year, for operations and missions whose mandate exceeds 1 year (most of them).

Military operations ongoing

EUNAVFOR ASPIDES (*aspides* means 'shields' in Greek)

[Established](#) 8.2.2024, [launched](#) 19.2.2024, with 1-year initial mandate from 19.2.2024 to 18.2.2025.

OHQ: Larissa, Greece.

[Staff](#): 160 (130 in OHQ, 30 in HQ on a frigate).

Operation commander: Commodore Vasileios Gryparis (Greece).

Force commander: Rear Admiral Stefano Costantino (Italy)

Budget (EPF-funded common costs of operation): €8 million.

Operation [ASPIDES](#) ensures an EU naval presence in the area of the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf. In close cooperation with EUNAVFOR Atalanta and like-minded international partners, it seeks to safeguard [maritime security](#) and ensure freedom of navigation, especially for merchant vessels. It came in response to the Red Sea crisis in which since October 2023 the Houthi militia, which control parts of Yemen, have been attacking international commercial vessels. Acting within a [defensive](#) mandate – meaning no engagement in any operation against the Houthis on land – it provides vessels with maritime situational awareness, accompanies them and protects them against

possible multi-domain attacks at sea. ASPIDES illustrates the EU's ambition as a [global maritime security actor](#).

EUNAVFOR MED IRINI (*irini* means 'peace' in Greek)

Launched and [established](#) in March 2020 after closure of operation SOPHIA. Current mandate until March 2025.
 OHQ: Rome.
 Staff: estimated 1100
 Operation commander: Rear Admiral Stefano Turchetto (Italy).
 Force Commander: Commodore Prokopios Charitos (Greece) since 4.10.2024.
 Budget (total of common costs over 5 years): almost €43.66 million – almost €8.73 million per year.

Operation [IRINI](#) is a military executive crisis management operation seeking to: prevent arms trafficking and monitor the United Nations (UN) arms embargo on Libya; help implement UN measures to prevent the illicit export of petroleum from Libya; help develop the capacities and train the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy in their law enforcement tasks at sea; and help counter the human smuggling and trafficking networks.

EUNAVFOR Atalanta

Launched and [established](#) in late 2008, since [amended](#) 12 times. Current mandate valid until 31.12.2024.
 OHQ: Rota, Spain.
[Staff](#): approximately 600 (no current figures).
 Operation commander: Vice Admiral Ignacio Villanueva Serrano (Spain).
 Force Commander: Rear Admiral Francesco Saladino (Italy).
 Budget: common costs from 1.1.2023 until 31.12.2024: €10.4 million or €5.2 million per year.

Operation Atalanta has a [mandate](#) as a military executive naval operation to: protect World Food Programme and other vulnerable shipping off the coast of Somalia; deter, prevent and repress piracy and armed robbery at sea; contribute to the disruption of drug and weapons trafficking. The Operation also has non-executive tasks, such as helping to monitor narcotics, drugs and weapons trafficking.

EUFOR Althea (named after the Greek goddess of healing)

[Established](#) in July 2004. First of many 12-month mandates began in [December 2004](#), most recently began [2.11.2023](#).
 Staff: 1 600 in theatre (mission strength).
[Military Direction](#): Operation Commander at EU OHQ, at the NATO Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE, Casteau, Belgium): Lieutenant General Hubert Cottureau (France); EU Force Commander (Sarajevo): Major General László Sticz (Hungary).
 Budget: annual common costs estimated at an average of €10 million.

[EUFOR Althea](#) is the EU military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The executive mandate is given by the UN Security Council (UNSC) and based on Joint Action 2004/570. The aim is to help the BiH authorities maintain a safe and secure environment (SASE). EUFOR's responsibility for this has been given by the NATO-led Stabilization Force. The non-executive mandate is to support training for collective and combined armed forces, to help BiH become 'security provider' rather than 'security consumer'.

Military missions ongoing and recently closed down

EUMPM Niger (closed down on 1 July 2024)

[Established](#) in December 2022 with 3-year mandate, [launched](#) February 2023, suspended in summer 2023, closed 1.7.2024

Mission Commander: Lieutenant General Michiel van der Laan (Netherlands) at OHQ (MPCC);

Mission Force Commander: Colonel Antonio D'Agostino (Italy).

Budget (common costs): €27.3 million for 3 years, or €9.1 million per year.

The [EU Military Partnership Mission in Niger](#) had a mandate to support capacity-building of Niger's armed forces, to enhance their ability to contain the terrorist armed groups and to protect population. It focused on enabling logistics and communications capabilities. However, following the July 2023 coup, all EPF funds were [suspended](#) and the mission was [restricted](#) considerably. The EU [suspended](#) all Niger-EU military cooperation while [scaling down](#) CSDP operations and missions in the Sahel. On 5 December 2023, Niger's junta-led government [announced](#) the termination of the two EU missions, EUMPM Niger and EUCAP Sahel Niger. On 27 May 2024, the Council decided [not to extend](#) the mission beyond 30 June 2024.

EUMAM Ukraine

Established October 2022, launched November 2022 for 2-year initial mandate, to be [extended](#) for 2 years.

Mission Commander: Lieutenant General Michiel van der Laan at OHQ (MPCC);

Budget (common costs): €106.7 million over 2 years, or around €53.35 million per year.

[EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine](#) has a mandate to conduct a non-combat training mission to strengthen the Ukrainian army's capacity. Mission activities are located on EU soil: trained units are formed at the multinational Combined Arms Training Command (CAT-C) in Poland, while a multinational Special Training Command (STC) commands training activities in Germany. Other Member States offer specific training across Europe.

In addition to the common costs, the EPF's assistance pillar funds assistance measures adopted by the Council to support the training activities, most recently on 27 and 28 November 2023 (€194 million), increasing total AMs for EUMAM to €255 million.

EUTM/EUMAM Mozambique

[Launched](#) October 2021; [established](#) July 2021 with 2-year initial mandate, renewed until September 2024 and now extended to 30.6.2026.

Mission commander: Lieutenant General Michiel van der Laan at OHQ;

Mission force commander: Brigadier-General Luis Fernando Machado Barroso (Portugal), from [11.9.2024](#)).

Estimated staff: 115, including [70 Portuguese soldiers](#) training Mozambican soldiers in counter-terrorism techniques

Budget (common costs): €29.16 million for less than 5 years – approximately €6.2 million per year.

The [EU Training Mission in Mozambique](#) was renamed the EU Military Assistance Mission on [1 September 2024](#). It has a mandate as a training mission to support the army's response to the crisis caused in Cabo Delgado and neighbouring provinces by attacks by groups linked to Islamic State. The [initial objective](#) was to train five companies of navy marines in Katembe, and six companies of army special forces in Chimoio. In May 2024, the Council decided to shift the mission's mandate from training to assistance, combining advising, mentoring and specialised training in support of the units of the Quick Reaction Force.

For the current mandate (under 2 years) the budget is €14 million. The Council also adopted EPF-funded assistance measures: for the Mozambican units trained by the mission, of €4 million in

July 2021, [€40 million](#) in November 2021, and [€45 million](#) in April 2022; and for the Rwandan Defence Force deployed in Cabo Delgado, in December 2022, of €20 million.

EUTM RCA

Established April 2016, launched July 2016, since extended for 1-year periods, most recently by the [decision of 6.9.2024](#), extending mandate until 19.9.2025.

Staff: updated data unavailable. The mission currently runs with reduced staff.

Mission commander: Lieutenant General Michiel van der Laan at OHQ (MPCC);

Mission force commander since [27 September 2024](#): Brigadier General Nicolae-Gabriel Oros (Romania)

Budget (common costs): €94.3 million, approx. €11.8 million per year, reduced to €5.84 million for the period from 20.9.2024 to 19.9.2025.

The [EU Training Mission in the Central African Republic](#) has a mandate to provide the country's defence ministry and the army with advice and education in non-operational domains, including human rights, international humanitarian law, gender issues, and the protection of civilians.

On 28 July 2022, adjusting the mandate to the situation in CAR, notably to the strengthened [presence](#) of the Wagner group and of its military and disinformation-related activities, the Council [extended](#) the mission's mandate to support 'strategic communication efforts to foster Union values, promote Union action and expose violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law by foreign forces'.

EUTM Mali (closed on 19 May 2024)

Established January 2013, launched February 2013. The Council renewed four times the initial mandate of 15 months. The fifth and last mandate ran from 19.5.2020 to 18.5.2024.

Mission Commander: Lieutenant General Michiel van der Laan at OHQ (MPCC); last Mission Force Commander: Brigadier General Santiago J. Fernández Ortiz-Repiso (Spain).

Budget (common costs, total budget February 2013–May 2024): €266.6 million, or €23.7 million per year.

EU Training Mission in Mali had a mandate to provide training, education and advice to the Malian army and to support the operationalisation of the [G5 Sahel Joint Force](#) (G5S JF). Following the strategic review and the consultation of the Malian authorities and given the political and security situation in Mali (military coups of August 2020 and May 2021, [closer ties](#) with Russia), the Member States [agreed](#) on 8 May [not to extend](#) the mission after 18 May.

EUTM Somalia

[Established](#) February 2010, [launched](#) April 2010, mandate [extended](#) seven times, most recently from 1.1.2023 until 31.12.2024, by Council Decision of 12.12.2022.

Authorised [staff](#): 203, estimated 209.

Mission commander: Lieutenant General Michiel van der Laan at OHQ (MPCC);

Mission force commander: Brigadier General Fulvio Poli (Italy)

Budget (common costs): €15.3 million for 2024.

The [EU Training Mission in Somalia](#) has a [mandate](#) for training, mentoring and advising, to develop stability, prosperity and security. The mission trains company level units (integrated and multi clan), and has a 'train the trainers' programme. It also conducts advising and mentoring activities for Ministry of Defence and army personnel.

On 27 November 2023, the Council adopted an EPF-funded assistance measure of €1 million to support the army, in conjunction with the mission. The Council or the PSC is likely to [decide soon](#) to continue the EPF funding to support the African Union military mission in Somalia from 1 January 2025 – when the AU ATMIS mission will be replaced by the AU AUSSOM Mission.

Civilian missions ongoing and recently closed down

EU SDI for West African countries of the Gulf of Guinea

[Established](#) first in August 2023 in Ghana and Benin, and [extended](#) in September 2023 to Côte d'Ivoire and Togo; [launched](#) on 11.12.2023; 2-year initial mandate (11.12.2023–11.12.2025).

[Staff](#): 6 EU civilian and military advisors based in EU delegations across the region.

Budget: for the 2-year mandate from the CFSP budget, for the civilian pillar: almost €7.3 million, or €3.6 million per year.

From the EPF, €0.787 million for common costs of the military pillar; military pillar is also funded through EPF assistance pillar.

The [EU security and defence initiative](#) in support of West African countries of the Gulf of Guinea has a hybrid [mandate](#). It is a mostly civilian but partially military mission to help the four countries (Ghana, Benin, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire) tackle instability and insecurity by reinforcing the capabilities of the security (including [police](#)) and defence forces.

Assistance measures: [Ghana](#) – €25 million + [€8.25 million](#); [Ghana and Cameroon](#) – €21 million; [Benin](#) – €35million + [€11.75 million](#) ; [Côte d'Ivoire](#) – €15 million.

EUPM Moldova

[Established](#) in April 2023, [launched](#) in May 2023 with a 2-year initial mandate (April 2023–May 2025).

[Staff](#): 40 international staff and 15 local staff, based in mission HQ in Chisinau.

Head of mission: Cosmin George Dinescu (Romania).

Budget: €13.35 million for the 2-year initial mandate, or €6.67 million per year.

The [EU Partnership mission in Moldova](#) has a [mandate](#) for a civilian, crisis management mission to enhance the resilience of Moldova's security sector of in the areas of crisis management and hybrid threats, including cybersecurity and countering foreign information manipulation and interference; the mission aims to address the Russian threat in the context of Moldova's EU candidate status.

EUMA (Armenia)

[Established](#) January 2023, [launched](#) February 2023, with 2-year initial mandate to 19.2.2025.

Staff: initially, 103 international staff from Member States, including experts and monitors, [raised](#) to 209 (165 international, 44 local).

Head of mission: Markus Ritter (Germany)

Budget: €30.75 million for two years or approx. €15.4 million per year.

The [EU Mission in Armenia](#) has a mandate to support peace efforts by observing and reporting on the situation on the ground; contributing to human security in conflict-affected areas and helping to build confidence between populations of both Armenia and Azerbaijan and, where possible, their authorities.

On 17 October 2022, the Council [amended](#) its 2008 decision on the EU Monitoring mission to Georgia and tasked it with the additional, temporary mission (up to 2 months) of monitoring the situation around the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

EUAM RCA

[Established](#) December 2019, [launched](#) July 2020, 2-year initial mandate, extended for 2 years, until 9.8.2024 and then 31.10.2024.

Staff: 86

[Head of Mission](#): José Manuel Marques Dias (Portugal) until 31.10.2024.

Budget: over €58.75 million in total (4 years), approx. €14.2 million annually.

The [EU Advisory Mission in Central African Republic](#), has a mandate to provide the RCA Ministry of Interior and Public Security and the Internal Security Forces with strategic advice. The Council [extended](#) the mission's mandate until 31 October 2024 to complete the strategic assessment of both EUTM RCA and EUAM RCA.

Just as for the military mission EUTM RCA, the Russian presence in the country has necessitated strategic discussions in the EU Council on the mission's future and very existence.

EUAM Iraq

[Established](#) and launched in October 2017 for 1-year initial mandate, extended five times, most recently on [29.4.2024](#), from 1.5.2024 to 30.4.2026.

[Staff](#): estimated 107 (85 international and 32 local).

Head of mission: Anders Wiberg (Sweden) since July 2022.

Budget: >€236.2 million for almost 9 years; approx. €33.6 million per year.

The [Advisory Mission in Iraq](#) has a mandate to support security sector reform in Iraq. The mission is also active in the protection of Iraqi heritage.

EUAM Ukraine

[Established](#) July 2014, [launched](#) December 2014, current mandate runs from 2021 to 2024, [extended](#) by the Council until 31.5.2027.

[Staff](#) (in February 2024): 326 (165 international staff from EU Member States, 161 local staff).

Head of Mission: Rolf Holmboe (Denmark), since June 2023.

Budget: €88.5 million (1.6.2021– 31.5.2024), or €29.5 million per year.

The [EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform in Ukraine](#), has a [mandate](#) to support Ukraine in its commitment to civilian security sector reform, by advising and supporting relevant Ukrainian partners such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Police in preparing security strategies and implementing comprehensive and cohesive reform efforts.

The mission's scope was extended through the [Council amending Decision](#) of 13 April 2022, to allow it to support Ukrainian authorities to investigate and prosecute international crimes committed in the context of the Russian invasion. The mandate was [re-adjusted](#) in 2023 to take into account developments on the battlefield and Ukraine's EU candidate status, and to cover investigation and prosecution of international crimes and assistance in territories liberated from Russia.

EUCAP Sahel Mali

[Established](#) April 2014, [launched](#) January 2015. Initial 2-year mandate [renewed](#) several times, most recently until 31.1.2025.

Staff: 203 authorised staff, including 132 international staff.

Head of Mission: Peter Kolding (Denmark).

Budget: €73.9 million (for 2 years, 2023–2025), or €36.95 million per year.

The [EU capacity-building mission in Mali](#), has a mandate to assist the Malian authorities to restore and maintain constitutional and democratic order and the conditions for a lasting peace and to restore and maintain State authority and legitimacy throughout the territory by redeploying the administration. Council's [Decision](#) of 10 January 2023 following its Holistic Strategic Review of EUTM Mali and EUCAP Sahel Mali extended the mission for 2 years but cut €16 million from the budget.

EUBAM Libya

Launched and [established](#) May 2013; 2-year mandate, extended several times, most recently in June 2023 for 2 years until 30 June 2025.

[Authorised staff](#): 91 (61 international and 30 local staff).

Head of Mission: Jan Vyčítal (Czech Republic) since 1.1.2024.

Budget: around €84.8 million from 1.7.2021–30.6.2023, or around €42.4 million per year.

The [EU integrated Border management Assistance Mission in Libya](#) has a mandate for capacity-building, and for border assistance to help the Libyan authorities develop border management and security at Libyan land, sea and air borders and fight cross-border crime – including human trafficking and migrant smuggling – counter terrorism and refurbish training facilities.

EUCAP Somalia

Established and [launched under its new name EUCAP Somalia](#) in December 2016; mandate [renewed](#) three times, most recently from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.

Authorised [staff](#): 222; as of March 2024, 181: 136 international staff and 45 local staff.

[Head of Mission](#): Kęstutis Lančinskas (Lithuania), from 1 May 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Budget approx. €254 million over 8 years, or €31.75 million per year.

The [EU capacity-building mission in Somalia](#) is the successor mission to EUCAP Nestor (launched and established in July 2012). It has a [mandate](#) for civilian capacity-building and crisis management to support the development of Somali and Somaliland maritime security and broader police sectors, while promoting the rule of law.

EUCAP Sahel Niger (closed down in 2024)

[Established](#) and launched in July 2012; sixth mandate ran from 1 October 2022 until 30 September 2024. On 5 December 2023, the junta [announced](#) the termination of the two EU missions in Niger. The Council decided in end-February 2024 to speed the [withdrawal](#) of the Mission.

Authorised [staff](#): 210, but almost all international staff have [left](#) the country in 2024.

Head of mission: Katja Dominic (Germany) since June 2023.

[Total budget](#) for 12 years – 16.7.2012 to 30.9.2024: €372.9 million or €30.6 million per year.

Budget 2022–2024: €47.14 million or approximately €23.7 million per year.

The EU capacity-building mission Sahel Niger had a [mandate](#) to fight terrorism, organised crime and irregular migration, in order to protect the population. The initial mandate was to strengthen the capacity to fight terrorists in Niger, Mali and Mauritania; the mission later limited its activities to Niger, mainly with the creation of mobile forces. In 2022 the Council [prolonged](#) the mission for the fifth time and adapted its mandate, to allow it to exchange EU classified information with the EU justice and home affairs agencies.

EUMM Georgia

[Established](#) September 2008, launched October 2008,; mandate amended several times, lastly on [17.2.2022](#).

Staff: 411 authorised; >[200](#) international staff (EU monitors) and around 140 local staff (estimations).

Head of mission: Major Bettina Boughani (France) as from 20 March 2024.

Budget 2022–2024: €47.14 million – approx. €23.7 million per year.

The [EU monitoring mission in Georgia](#), has had a [mandate](#) for a civilian monitoring mission since the EU-mediated Six-Point Agreement that ended the August 2008 war (Medvedev-Sarkozy Agreement). The mission seeks to consolidate peace, and facilitate the return to a safe and normal life for the local communities on both sides of the administrative boundary lines with the Abkhazia and South Ossetia occupied regions. It is also tasked with monitoring the situation around the Armenian-Azeri border).

EULEX Kosovo

Established in [February 2008](#), launched in December 2008, establishing decision [amended](#) 18 times.

Authorised staff: staff 396; in May 2023, around 250 international staff, from the 27 EU Member States and 5 non EU States (Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, US) and 150 local staff.

Budget: €58.5 million over the last 2 years of the current mandate (14.6.2023 to 14.6.2024), approx. €29.25 million per year.

Head of Mission: Major General Giovanni Pietro Balbano (Italy).

The [EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo](#) is the EU's largest civilian CSDP mission. Its [mandate](#) is to strengthen the rule of law in Kosovo - with a limited executive mandate from December 2008 to June 2018: investigate, prosecute and adjudicate war crimes.

EUPOL COPPS

[Established](#) in November 2005, launched in January 2006, establishing decision amended several times since, most recently by [Council Decision](#) of 25.6.2024 extending the mission for one year.

[Staff](#): authorised and estimated (November 2020) 106, of which 71 international and 35 local staff.

[Head of Mission](#): Karin Limdal (Sweden)

Budget for the period 1.7.2024–30.6.2024: €13.246 million.

EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories, referred to as the [EU Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support](#).

The mandate from 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2024, focused on support to the Palestinian Civil Police, in the areas of policing and wider criminal justice.

EUBAM Rafah

[Established](#) November 2005, launched December 2005 2005, (Council Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP, since [amended](#) 22 times, most recently by [Council Decision](#) of 25.6.2024 extending the mission for one year).

Head of Mission: Nataliya Apostolova (Bulgaria).

[Budget](#) for the period 1.7.2024–30.6.2024: €3.724 million.

The [EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point](#) has a [mandate](#) to support the border management capacity of the Palestinian Authority. Following the Hamas takeover of the Gaza strip, the mission's operations were [suspended](#) in June 2007. On 27 May 2024, the Council agreed to explore [options to reactivate](#) the mission for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

RACC Mauritania

Established June 2023.

Staff (expected): 40. Staff from EUCAP Sahel Mali will be redeployed to Nouakchott, following the signature of a Status of Mission Agreement between Mauritania and EU.

Head of Mission (ad interim): Simonetta Silvestri (Italy).

Budget: €9.13 million per year, included in the budget of EUCAP Sahel Mali.

Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell to be deployed in Nouakchott to support the G5 Sahel structures. It was established by [Council Decision](#) (CFSP) 2024/226 of 9 June 2023 on the signing and conclusion of the EU–Mauritania Agreement on the establishment and functioning of the RACC, previously in EUCAP Sahel Mali.

EUBAM Moldova–Ukraine (not technically a CSDP mission)

Established and launched in 2005. The mandate runs until 30.11.2025.

Staff: 80 (36 experts from Member States and 44 local staff).

Head of mission: General Slawomir Pichor (Poland)

[Budget](#): annual budget of €5 million.

The [Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine](#) has a [mandate](#) to observe customs clearance and border guard checks. In its advisory role, it examines border control documents and records. It also seeks to contribute to the peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. The legal basis for the [mission](#) is the 7 October 2005 Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the Moldovan and Ukrainian Governments.

Initially funded from the former European Neighbourhood Instrument, the mission has been merged into the [Global Europe Instrument](#); the budget is still managed by the Commission, DG NEAR, and implemented by the International Organization for Migration.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Mainly Protocols No 1 (role of national parliaments in the EU), 10 (permanent structured cooperation) and 11 (on Article 42 TEU), and Declarations 13 and 14 (on the CFSP).
- ² The notion of operating expenditure arising from operations having military or defence implications, used in the TEU, is controversial and not entirely clear. It was left over from the 2004 Athena mechanism.
- ³ An executive operation, made up of units from Member States, corresponds to the size of an EU battlegroup.

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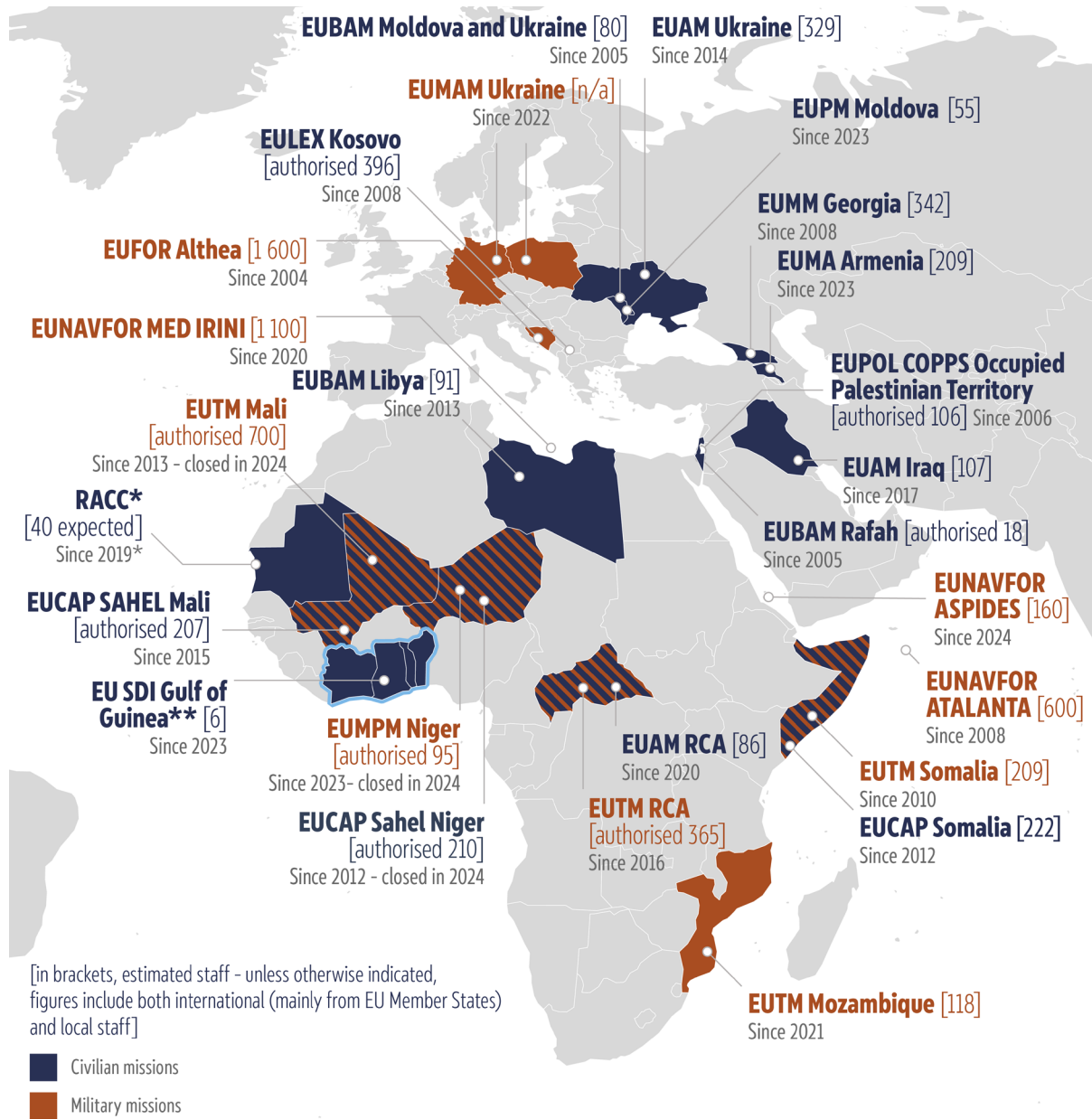
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Annex: Map showing EU military operations and missions, and civilian missions



Source: EPRS, 2024 (based on EEAS and official websites of operations and missions).