

Fighting fraud

The European Union has an Office that investigates fraud, corruption and serious misconduct within the EU institutions. It is the EU Anti-Fraud Office known as OLAF, which is also responsible for developing the EU's anti-fraud policies and strategy.

A part of this strategy, is mandatory anti-fraud training for all members of this and all other EU missions. Fraud, in this context, is defined as irregularities or illegal acts characterized by intentional deception or misrepresentation, with the potential to damage interests of the EU.

A week ago, we conducted the mandatory anti-fraud training for our Mission Members. The training was specially designed to prevent fraud in Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions, such as EUPOL COPPS. The objective of the training was to raise awareness on fraud prevention and detection; to progress the knowledge and use of anti-fraud tools and to improve reaction to suspected fraud. The training also touched upon corruptive practices, defined as "abuse of power for private gain" and how to manage and avoid conflicts of interest.

The EU must lead by example and apply a zero tolerance on corruption and fraud when it comes to the spending of EU taxpayers' money, both within and outside the EU. Last week's training was a small, but important contribution to this effort.



MEET OUR MISSION MEMBERS

Ministerial Legal and Administration Expert Martin Kulisek is from the Czech Republic. He arrived in the Mission in February 2017, after having served in the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia for six years. Here he worked as Liaison Officer to the Ministry of Interior of Georgia as well as the Deputy Head of Operations.

12 years of evolution in EUPOL COPPS mandate delivery...

From basic training to strategic advice

Since the Mission's inception in January 2006, the nature and level of its activities has significantly evolved. EUPOL COPPS has progressed from basic training and equipment donations to the Palestinian Civil Police to delivering strategic advice to the Ministry of the Interior.

Ministerial Legal and Administration Expert Martin Kulisek is one of the Mission's three Strategic Advisers to the Palestinian Ministry of the Interior.

"The outset for our work is to empower the Minister of Interior and his ministry. All our work aims to build a ministry developed to fulfil its basic role and responsibilities towards the Palestinian people. To achieve this, our strategic advice comprise four components: Strategic Planning, Legislation, Donor Coordination and Horizontal Issues", says Martin Kulisek who arrived in the Mission in February 2017 after six years in the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia.

Strategic planning

"We are strongly involved in the development of the Palestinian Security Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2022, which covers 18 security establishments. This imperative strategic project has been our main strategic planning task for the past years. Now our focus has moved to supporting its implementation. Much of this work is done through the very influential Security Sector Working Group, where the Mission serves as Technical Adviser", says Martin.

Legislation

“On the legislative side, we have worked to establish a Legislative Plan to prioritize the legislative tasks before the drafting period for laws or by-laws begins. The Plan serves as a necessary instrument to define the most important issues, allocate adequate resources and determine a realistic time schedule; all in a transparent way. In this field, we have come a long way, so now we aim to develop the Plan into perfection.”

Donor coordination

“A part of the Mission’s mandate is to support, coordinate and facilitate external donor assistance. Currently more than 10 EU Member States and other international organisations are engaged in the Palestinian Security Sector, so there is an understandable need for an effective coordination. We support the Ministry in its responsibility to coordinate the donor contributions to the

Security Sector. Our advice aims to streamline the contributions in order to enable the most efficient mix and to ensure that donor contributions do not overlap”, explains Martin.

Horizontal issues

“In our work, there is also a number of relevant cross-cutting issues, which we bring up as often as we can. These include Human Rights and Gender standards, to which we keep a continuous focus. Whenever we identify a need for training within the Security Sector, we work on ways to match the demand.”

“All four components form part of a strategic process, where we work on the long haul to enable the Ministry to deliver transparent services to the Palestinian people, based on the principles of accountability and local ownership”, concludes Martin Kulisek.

Who do our Strategic Advisors to the Ministry of Interior work with?**How do we advise on the strategic level?**

EUPOL COPPS is the only international organisation present in Palestine with the capacity – under one roof – to make Police Officers and Legislation Experts (Lawyers, Magistrates and Legal Advisers) available to provide holistic and comprehensive legislative support to the Palestinian Civil Police and relevant Criminal Justice Institutions.

MEET OUR MISSION MEMBERS



Interpreter Lubna Fartat: “For me, interpretation is not just a job, it is a passion. I do it from the heart and I love what I do”.

It is not just a job!

For Lubna Farhat, one of the Mission’s 11 interpreters/translators, translation is a passion. The mother of two, who studied translation and interpretation in Palestine and the United Kingdom, works in the Rule of Law Section.

Here, Lubna mainly deals with interpretation that has to do with courts, judges, prosecution and lawyers. These parties constitute the criminal justice institutions in Palestine.

“For me, it is not just a job I do and then, that’s it. It’s a passion and I do it from the heart. Interpretation is an art that contributes to bring people from different nationalities together and share knowledge with each other. The job is not only about interpretation. As interpreters, we provide cultural advice as well”, Lubna says.

The first couple of minutes can be challenging

Lubna finds herself more in simultaneous interpretations, where the interpreter listens to the speaker

through headphones and speaks the interpreted sentences, than in consecutive interpretation, that relies on the speaker to stop speaking frequently. In many cases, when the speaker has a prepared speech to deliver, he or she forgets there is an interpreter to take care of the translation, she explains.

Lubna says that it sometimes can be a challenge to interpret distinct language accent, especially for those whose mother language is not English. Also, the first couple of minutes usually are the most challenging to interpret because the interpreter must adapt to the tone and cadence of the speaker.

Seven years in the Mission

During consecutive interpretations, Lubna maintains eye contact with the speaker to ensure the syntax of the interpretation. “Keeping eye contact gives the interpretation a different smoothness, which enables better interaction between the speakers”.

Mission essential translations

الترجمة الأساسية لسير عمل البعثة

The interpretation and translations services offered by the Mission's three translation teams are indispensable to the Mission in accomplishing its Mandate.

Eleven dedicated interpreters enable the Mission to engage and interact with its Arabic speaking counterparts in the West Bank and abroad – and vice versa. Their official job title is 'Interpreter/Translator', reflecting the two essential areas of expertise required to be employed by the Mission in this capacity.

Interpreter and translator

As interpreters, they are present during meetings, workshops, conferences and field visits. Here they must capture the tone, nu-

ance, facial expression, and other elements of the spoken word.

As translators, they work in the Mission Headquarters with written translation of many types of documents. In this capacity they must maintain literary elements like citations, cadence and consistency in recurring themes – often in complicated legal or judicial language. They also translate content for the Mission's website and social media platforms as well as this newsletter.

... and Cultural Advisor

In addition to the interpretation and translation skills, they assist Mission Members in maintaining day-to-day relations with their counterparts. They contact, liaise and coordinate daily business on

behalf of Mission Members as well as providing cultural awareness and advice, whenever appropriate.

Three teams

The eleven 'Interpreters/Translators' account for 10% of the Mission's total staff. One out of three are women. They are divided into 3 teams, each attached to the Mission's operational sections (Police Advisory and Rule of Law) and to the Planning and Reporting Unit. Each team is led by a 'Coordinating Interpreter/Translator' who plans and coordinates the work of the team, distributes the workload and assigns interpretation tasks for scheduled activities.



Five of the Mission's eleven interpreters gathered in the Ramallah Conference Room in the Mission Headquarters.



Consecutive interpretation was used when the Mission's interpreter/translator Jamal Saba (center) interpreted the Head of Mission, Kauko Aaltomaa's (left) speech during the Inauguration Ceremony of the Mission's new Headquarters in June this year. Jamal Saba is attached to the Mission's Rule of Law Section.

Interpreters and subject matter experts

For the Mission Members and their counterparts the interpreting experience is equally as important as the expert knowledge of the subject matter.

EUPOL COPPS' eleven interpreters/translators have in average been employed for 9 years and have therefore acquired a substantial knowledge and

insight in the work of their respective sections and units. Further, they possess excellent public speaking skills, and the capacity to instantly transform idioms, colloquialisms and other culturally-specific references into parallel statements the audience will understand. These three types of interpretation is currently used in the Mission:

Consecutive الترجمة المتعاقبة

This relies on the speaker to stop speaking frequently. The interpreter listens and takes notes. When the speaker pauses the translation is delivered. Consequently, an important skill involved in consecutive interpreting is note-taking, since few interpreters can memorize a complete paragraph in a single hearing without losing detail.

Simultaneous الترجمة الفورية

From a soundproof booth, the interpreter listens to the speaker through headphones, and speaks the interpreted sentences into a microphone. The translation is delivered to the listeners through their headphones. As soon as the interpreter understands the general meaning of the sentence, he or she begins the interpretation.

Whispered الترجمة عن طريق الهمس

This is a variation of simultaneous interpreting, where the interpreter address a small audience by whispering a simultaneous interpretation. This method is generally used only when a few audience members do not understand the source language.

Palestinians on study trip to Sweden to learn best Anti-Corruption Practices

In September, a delegation from the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission and the Palestinian Civil Police conducted a study visit to Sweden to gain a better understanding of the cooperation between the police and the prosecution in corruption cases.

The three-day long study visit, organized by EUPOL COPPS, included visits to the Anti-Corruption Group of the Swedish National Police and the Anti-Corruption Unit of the National Public Prosecution Department.

The delegation also visited the Witness Protection Unit at the Swedish National Police to learn from their experiences in the central area of protecting whistle blowers and witnesses. Additionally, the delegation met with the Swedish Anti-corruption Institute and Transparency International.



The delegation consisted of five members and was led by Deputy Attorney-General Akram Al-Khatib and the head of the Criminal Investigations Department of the Palestinian Civilian Police, Brigadier Marouf Al-Barbary.

Video interview with the Deputy Head of Mission

Personal relations with our counterparts is of the essence

“It is important that we keep a personal relationship with our counterparts. Without their trust and cooperation, the Mission cannot work and operate“, says the Mission’s Deputy Head, Dr. Katja Dominik in her first video interview after she took up her duty in the Mission Headquarters in Ramallah in late July.

In this interview, Dr. Dominik introduces herself and explains her role as Deputy Head and Chief of Staff for the Mission’s 112 members, representing 20 EU Member States and Palestine. She also reiterates the Mission’s clear standpoint that “it is the Palestinian people we have in mind and whatever we do, should be for their benefit”.

Watch the short interview [here](#).



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