

Visits from Brussels

In November, the Mission welcomed two delegations from the EU in Brussels. Both visits aimed at familiarizing the Brussels-based staff with the situation on the ground and to establish a real-time picture of the operational environment in the occupied Palestinian territories.

One of the delegations represented the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD). This directorate is part of the European External Action Service and works under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee consisting of representatives of all the 28 EU Member States.

The CMPD conducts strategic reviews of existing missions, such as EUPOL COPPS, to examine the mandate, objectives, size and sustainability against the background of a transforming strategic context or changes in the political situation. It also conducts strategic planning of future missions and operations to develop options for possible EU action.

The other delegation represented the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), this is the Operational Headquarters for all civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Missions, such as EUPOL COPPS. This visit is covered on page 5 and 6 in this Newsletter.

Both visits also offered a welcome opportunity to strengthen our relations, at the personal level, with our colleagues in Brussels.

Buckle up and slow down...

The Mission advises Palestinians to take it easy



“Road Traffic Safety saves lives. Enforcing traffic violations is a way to increase safety for drivers and pedestrians on the streets of Palestine. It is a long term effort, but the short term results are remarkable”, says Erik Nielsen, after having reviewed the latest data on the effect of increased law enforcement.

The Mission’s Traffic Advisor, Erik Nielsen, advises his Palestinian Traffic Police counterparts on ways to improve road traffic safety in Palestine and reduce traffic accidents. “It’s a question of changing people’s mind-set when they are on the road”, he says.

“There is an understanding, that drivers’ mindset can be changed through public information and awareness campaigns as well as through a high level of law enforcement and presence of Traffic Police in the streets”, says Erik Nielsen and underlines “The best result comes from combining both measures, and this has been our continuous recommendations to the Palestinian Civil Police”.

Speeding fines tripled

“Speeding is well known as one of the ‘Fatal Three’ traffic violations leading to traffic fatalities (the two other being

Reckless driving/distraction and driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medicine).

We therefore constantly advise our colleagues from the Palestinian Traffic Police to remind Palestinian drivers to take it easy and respect the speed limits.

Since 1 September 2018, the Palestinian Traffic Police has beefed-up enforcement of speed violations in the West Bank, resulting in a significant increase in speeding tickets. On the longer term this will lead to a reduction of the average speed”, explains Erik Nielsen. ➔

From an average of 10 daily speed violation fines in the first 8 months of 2018, the increased effort has tripled to a daily average of 33 tickets since 1 September. The average fine for violation of speed limits is 300 ILS (70 EUR).

1,300% increase in seat belt violation fines

Not using a seatbelt is another common reason for injuries in traffic accidents. Consequently, this violation has also been subject to increased enforcement by the Traffic Police since 1 September. The results of this police action is even more alarming.

From an average of 12 daily fines for seatbelt violations during the first 8 months of 2018, this has increased by over 1,300% to a daily average of 180 tickets in September, October and November. The average fine for non-use of seatbelts is 150 ILS (35 EUR) for each passenger not wearing the seatbelt.

“The improved effort has shown convincing results and if this level of enforcement is continued, it will have a huge impact on the road traffic safety in Palestine. Even with a speed of only 30 km/h one can be seriously injured if involved in a car crash without using the seatbelt”, concludes Erik Nielsen.



On 1 September 2018, the Traffic Police of the Palestinian Civil Police launched an enhanced effort to increase Traffic Safety in the West Bank by enforcing a number common violations of Palestinian Traffic Law. The action, if continued, will have a positive long term influence on traffic related fatalities.

Enhanced law enforcement increases fines by 224-1,300%

Offence	Period	Days	No. of fines issued	Average fines per day	Increase in fines since 1 September
Speeding	1 January-31 August 2018	242	2,477	10.24	224%
	1 September-21 November 2018	81	2,689	33.20	
Non-use of Seatbelts	1 January-31 August 2018	242	2,992	12.36	1,354%
	1 September-21 November 2018	81	14,561	179.76	

Well-crafted legislative drafting yields robust bills

Legislative drafting is a fundamental element in the process of developing and generating understandable and sound legislation. The Mission's Rule-of-Law Section plays a pivotal role in supporting legislative drafting in Palestine.



Legislative drafting involves articulating the legislative sponsor's intent in a crystal clear and highly concise manner.

Confused or inaccurate drafting can be misinterpreted and lead to inappropriate implementation or interpretation of the legislation.

The legislative drafting process is also applied when reviewing and updating existing legislation to minimize the risk of misunderstandings and to best serve the public interest.

Here comes the role of Amjad Badran, one of the Mission's four-member strong legislative draft-

ing team – a part of the Mission's Rule-of-Law Section. His main task is to develop and improve the legislative drafting process as a whole in Palestine.

Two key manuals

He takes pride in having contributed to penning two drafting manuals, 'Guidelines on Legislative Drafting' and 'Guidelines on Public Consultation'. They will improve the law-making process in Palestine, give a boost to the process more institutionalized and deliver more solid and well-articulated bills. ➔

Legislative Drafting Adviser Amjad Badran is one of the Mission's four-member strong legislative drafting team.

Assisting the Rule of Law in Palestine

EUPOL COPPS (the EU Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support) was established in 2006. It is, however, not only a Police Mission. It has a Rule-of-Law Section which comprises over 20 staff members, nationals and internationals. The overall objective of the Mission is to contribute in building the institutions of the Palestinian state.

“These two manuals are the compass for legislative life in Palestine,” Mr. Badran said. “If the legislative process loses this compass, it will lead to vague bills that can easily be challenged in the court of law,” he explains.

Mr. Badran, who holds a Masters Law Degree from the University of Leicester in the UK, has been working for EUPOL COPPS since 2015 to support the Mission’s main counterparts in establishing transparent, inclusive and participatory legislative processes in Palestine. In addition, he assists, along with his team, in reviewing bills and ensuring their compatibility with international standards before they come into force.

“The quality of the legislation became more efficient, with less voices speaking out against,” says Amjad, one of the 40 Palestinian nationals, working for EUPOL COPPS. “After introducing the two manuals, we have started to see an increase in well-crafted pieces of legislation,” he adds.

Collective effort

Amjad Badran has observed, that the past three years of efforts, together with governmental institutions, representatives from civil society and specialized Palestinian universities, has resulted in producing higher quality legislation, which again has proven to become more efficient.

“We review bills. We provide feedback. We give comments and suggestions,” he says. In the absence of a functioning Parliament, due to internal rivalry between the two biggest political factions, the Cabinet proposes bills and the President ratifies them and these become effective law until the reconvening of the legislative body.

“When the Parliament ceased to exist, the legislative process was not sound. It needed support. Because of this, our role became more important, which is to contribute to the governmental efforts in compensating for the absence of the Legislative Council,” he concludes.

Guidelines on Legislative Drafting and Public Consultation improves the law-making process in Palestine



This summer, EUPOL COPPS, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, launched the revised edition of ‘Guidelines on Legislative Drafting’ and the new ‘Guidelines on Public Consultation’.

The ‘Guidelines on Legislative Drafting’ is an essential tool to improve the law-making process and will give a boost to making the process more institutionalized and improve the quality of legislation. The ‘Guidelines on Public Consultation’ is a new initiative, which can prove an important first piece of the puzzle in a more institutionalized and standardized legislative process.



As part of Mission’s efforts to assist the Palestinian Authority in taking responsibility for justice and security, the Rule of Law Section works closely with all the key justice institutions in Palestine in order to improve the legislative process, promote fair trial principles and strengthen the institutions through institutional development and capacity building.



The Mission's Desk Officers, Mr Richard la Cour and Mr Daniel Munk (right), during one of their meetings with the Head of Mission, Kauko Aaltomaa (left).

Our team in Brussels

Staff members from the European Union institutions in Brussels pay regular visits to EU missions and operations around the world. In November, two Desk Officers from the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability concluded a field trip to Palestine to visit EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah, the European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing.

The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) is the Operational Headquarters for all civilian EU missions. From this Headquarters, the Mission welcomed Policy Officers Mr Richard la Cour and Mr Daniel Munk. As Desk Officers they serve as the Mission's main focal points in Brussels.

We are the connection

"In our capacity as Desk Officers, we have two main roles: The weightiest role is to support and assist the Mission in its ongoing effort to deliver according to its mandate. In this role, we liaise with other sections and departments, often acting as the Mission's point of entry to other institutions in Brussels", explains Richard la Cour and continues: "We also ensure that the activities and progress made by the Mission is transmitted, explained and made visible to the Member States."

"The other role is to provide advice and guidance to the Mission. Our focus is to enable the Mission to respond timely to issues and changing circumstances, as they arise. ➔"

EUPOL COPPS is one of 10 civilian European Union missions

The EU's civilian missions, such as EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah, are referred to as Common Security and Defence Policy Missions (CSDP Missions).

There are 10 such missions in Ukraine, Georgia, Kosovo, Libya, Niger, Mali, Somalia, Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territory (Ramallah and Rafah).

Currently, there are approximately 2,000 Mission Members in the field, and a staff of around 80 in The Civilian

Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), which is the Operational Headquarters for all 10 missions.

In June 2018, of the staff in the field, almost 1,300 were internationals, mainly (but not exclusively) from EU Member States. Approximately 790 were locally engaged staff. The biggest mission has a staff of around 680, the smallest currently around 20.

This role also includes transforming political signals sent by the EU Member States and transmitting these to the Mission, enabling it to move in the direction the Member States want. In other words, as Desk Officers we are the connection between the everyday work in the Mission and the political and strategic level in Brussels.”

Our most essential tool

“In a working relationship, it is essential to have an easy and ongoing dialogue. As you can understand, the most essential tool for us as Desk Officers is communication. We are in daily contact, often several times a day, using many different means – phone calls, emails and video conferences. Our key interlocutors are the Head of Mission and Deputy Head of Mission, but we also speak to Heads of Sections and various other Mission Members. This close daily contact promotes mutual understanding and makes our cooperation smoother and faster”, says Daniel Munk.

A bit of Political skill

“A vital skill for Desk Officers is to have a sound political understanding. This is required when translating Mem-

ber States’ will into something that is workable for a Mission. The political aspect, beyond what Member States wish, often relates to how you say things. In many cases, it is not about what you say, but how you say it. So sometimes, when a message can be a bit harsh, we make an effort to translate it and actually formulate it in a way, the Mission will find useful – and that requires a bit of political skill”, smiles Richard la Cour.

Making life a little easier

Desk Officers also have to know the ins and outs of ‘their’ Mission, its Mandate and its operational environment. “This is why field visits are highly valuable in our line of work. They provide us with a real-time picture and get us familiarized with the actual situation on the ground”, stresses Daniel Munk, who previously served in various other EU missions: “Then, I sometimes shook my head, wondering why the Headquarters did as they did. Now I am working inside the Headquarters, which offers me a chance to change small things from the inside and hopefully making life just a little bit easier for the Mission and its members. Something, I believe matters for our colleagues in Ramallah!”



The Mission was also visited by two officials from the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD). This Directorate conducts strategic planning and reviews of EU Missions. All four visitors from CPCC and CMPD are depicted here. From left: Head of Mission Kauko Aaltomaa; Strategic Planner Emilia Gulkowska (CMPD); Policy Officer Daniel Munk (CPCC); Deputy Head of Mission Katja Dominik; Head of the Middle East/North Africa Sector Océane Lahanque (CMPD); and Policy Officer Richard la Cour (CPCC).

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Together with other EU Missions around the world, EU Delegations, EU Institutions and the entire International Community, EUPOL COPPS has been participating in the global campaign to raise awareness and take action to end violence against women and girls. In Palestine the Mission's counterparts have jointly raised their voices against violence in a 16 days long social media campaign on the Mission's Facebook and Twitter platforms.

Under the theme Orange the World: #HearMeToo, international actors in the occupied Palestinian territory have joined forces in support of the campaign, which runs every year from 25 November to 10 December. The Opening Ceremony in Gaza included lighting the Gaza Lighthouse in orange.

The Mission also organized a film screening and discussion on Violence Against Women with the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling's (WCLAC) Executive Director Randa Siniora.

On International Human Rights Day, 10 December, the mission organized a Human Rights Quiz for the

Mission and its counterparts to mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Working to improve the standards for prisoners in Palestine

“Our aim is to implement the best international standards within the Palestinian Correction and Rehabilitation Centres”

Since 2007, EUPOL COPPS has been supporting the reform and development of the correctional and rehabilitation system in Palestine.

In this short video, the Mission's Penitentiary Advisor, Lars Widholm visits the Palestinian Correction and Rehabilitation Centre in Jericho and explains how the aim is achieved through training of Palestinian correctional officers.

Watch the video [here](#).



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