



EUPOL COPPS Newsletter - September 2020

Dear friends,

Today is my last day as Head of EUPOL COPPS. It is with sadness that I leave this job - the past three years have been some of the most stimulating and rewarding in my career, and it has been a pleasure to cooperate with many people who are working to strengthen democratic norms and the rule of law in Palestine.



My Palestinian counterparts have treated me with nothing but the utmost kindness while I have been in my post and we have managed to achieve a lot through our cooperation. My first posting in the region was as a UN peacekeeper in 1984-85, and I can see how much has changed since then. I have met many committed

people working in Palestinian law enforcement and rule of law institutions, and I wish them success in their ambitions to achieve change.

It is clear that this has been a challenging year for all. Nonetheless, I am proud of the team at EUPOL COPPS for delivering results, whatever the circumstances, throughout the time we have worked together. In addition to our regular work of delivering advice and training, this year, we have also been able to provide equipment to our partners to support their fight against the coronavirus pandemic. It is a sign of our commitment to our Palestinian colleagues in law enforcement and rule of law institutions.

The new Head of Mission has not yet been appointed, and until he or she takes up their position, EUPOL COPPS will be led by Dr Katja Dominik, who worked with me as Deputy Head of Mission. She has been consistently reliable, engaged and diligent, as we worked together to support our Palestinian counterparts. Her hard work was never more appreciated however, than during the most challenging months of this year. I know the Mission is in fantastic hands as we move forward.

Lastly, we should never forget the reason why EUPOL COPPS was founded in the first place. It is one element of the EU's ongoing efforts to contribute to a lasting and sustainable peace in the region. If there is one thing that I hope for more than anything as I leave the post of Head of Mission, it is that someday my Palestinian friends will live in peace in a democratic, stable state of their own.

Stay safe and healthy and I wish you the best for the future. Working in Palestine has been a very enriching experience and one that I will certainly always treasure.

Kind regards,

Kauko

Kauko Aaltomaa
Head of Mission
EUPOL COPPS



"The role of women is key to peace and security"



EUPOL COPPS is pursuing gender equality in all parts of its operations.

Why? Because it is a key part of ensuring peace and security around the world, says EUPOL COPPS' Acting Head of Mission Katja Dominik.

EUPOL COPPS works closely with partners, such as the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Sweden to organise training in leadership and gender equality for staff internally. The training that is done for staff internally also impacts the work we do externally, for example helping set up a network of Palestinian female lawyers that can support each

other.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amkDUrn4cMQ>

Asset declarations - one of the most effective tools to fight corruption



On 9 September, EUPOL COPPS handed over a report to the Palestinian Anti-Corruption

The report delivered by EUPOL COPPS to the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) on strengthening the asset declaration

Commission with concrete recommendations on how to strengthen the Palestinian asset declaration system.

“A system where public officials have to declare their assets as well as their commercial interests on a regular basis is a very good way to ensure transparency and fight corruption,” said Giovanni Galzignato, Head of the Rule of Law Section at EUPOL COPPS.

 <https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5733>

framework was drafted by leading anti-corruption expert Dr Tilman Hoppe from Germany.

Find out what he and Isam Abdulhaleem, Head of the Asset Declaration Department at the PACC have to say about the role asset declarations can play in improving transparency for public officials.

 <https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5743>

“I’m proud of how we supported our Palestinian counterparts to help them manage the Covid-19 pandemic”



“I will miss my Palestinian colleagues,” says Peter Stafverfeldt, a judge from Sweden.

He will soon leave his post at EUPOL COPPS advising the Palestinian justice sector to head the Rule of Law Unit at EUAM Ukraine

Looking back, he is particularly proud of support of the work he and his colleagues did to support his Palestinian counterparts in the fight against COVID-19 and his advocacy for a more strategic approach to planning.

More:

👉 <https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5731>

“Everything in police work is related to training”



After almost 2 years working in Ramallah, Rainer Koor from Estonia has moved to the EU Mission in Somalia.

As a police adviser on training, he believes that training is everything for a police service, and key to avoiding mistakes that erode public trust.

Find out more about his thoughts on training and his experiences with his Palestinian counterparts:

👉 <https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5728>



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