

High level visit from Brussels

In January, we welcomed a delegation from EU's Crisis Management Planning Directorate (CMPD). The Directorate conducts strategic planning to develop options for EU action under the umbrella of EU foreign policy, i.e. on what to do, why, where and with whom.

In the occupied Palestinian Territories, the delegation met with local and international counterparts. Our local counterparts were asked for their assessment of the situation, the Reconciliation Process and of new areas the Mission could look to support.

The delegation also discussed the Mission's mandate, possible elements of transition and how best to continue supporting capacity building in the Justice and Security sectors.

The CMPD delegation acknowledged the current political context and gave positive feedback on the Mission's work.

First 100 days as Head of Mission

Kauko Aaltomaa (Finland) was appointed as Head of the EUPOL COPPS Mission on 1 October 2017 and com-

menced his duties in Ramallah on 23 October. 31 January 2018 marked Mr. Aaltomaa's first one

hundred days in the Mission and in this interview he reflects on the job as Head of Mission.



Kauko Aaltomaa joined the mission from his recent position as Director General of the Department of Police in Ministry of the Interior. He has one grown-up daughter. His hobbies include all kinds of outdoor activities like hunting, fishing and cross country skiing.

Why did you apply for this position?

"I have been privileged to enjoy a lifelong career in the Finnish Police, starting in 1980, and climbed the ranks to Commissioner for the Provincial Police Command of Southern Finland. In 2009, I left the Police to become Director-General for the Department of Police in the Ministry of Interior. In 2017, I felt it was time to move on. Inspired by my service with the United Nations in the Middle-East in the 80's and with an uninterrupted interest in the situation and developments in the region, I felt triggered by the opening to apply for the position as Head of EUPOL COPPS."

What do you believe, made you the right candidate for the position?

"Really it is not up to me to answer this question, but overall, I believe my experience and education match to the duties and tasks of the Head of Mission. On the theoretical level I hold a Master of Laws from the University of Helsinki. On the practical level my background and training as Team Leader has given me operational field practice. At the higher echelons I have acquired experience from various management positions and responsibilities. In the Ministry of Interior these included legislative matters, police budgeting, strategic planning and international relations. Finally I have been involved in security intelligence and functioned as advisor to four difference ministers. In this capacity I worked in a highly political environment, which may have added additional value to my candidature for the position."

What are the aspirations for your leadership of this Mission?

“Overall I’m here to fulfill our Mandate and achieve robust tangible and intangible results. In the past, our Mission faced a number of challenges, of which many were not pleasant. Consequently, it is also a priority for me to put this behind us, to look ahead and to make all members of our Mission sing from the same hymn sheet. As a person, I am result-oriented and therefore fully aware of the Member States’ expectations for operational progress and to see additional elements added to our tasks. In this effort, I am fortunate to be backed by the professionalism and dedication of the entire staff here in Ramallah.”

What do you think is the most challenging aspect of this Mission?

“The EU is strongly committed to supporting the building of a democratic and accountable Palestinian State. The Mission’s undertaking forms part of this commitment of which the Palestinian people are the ultimate beneficiaries. Having said this, the working environment here can be bureaucratic and achievements therefore often take time. This is a continuous challenge for us, but with our extensive network of good counterparts and a decade of enduring relations, the Mission has been achieving solid results which already today support the Palestinian National Authority and indeed the citizens of Palestine.”

What do you like about working here?

“I received a very warm welcome when I arrived in October. In particular, I quickly observed how Mission Members here are willing to make an extra effort to take on responsibilities and to work hard to accomplish their tasks. I clearly feel, that our work is a team effort, of which the value cannot be underestimated. Nonetheless, we have to remain resilient as changes need time. We have to stay determined in our endeavours to continue to deliver results at the same high level as in the past.”

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Update from the Mission

New comprehensive Security Sector Strategy for 17 security institutions

AN UPDATE FROM THE MISSION’S POLICE ADVISORY SECTION

Experts from the Mission are advising the Ministry of Interior and the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) on how to better develop plans and track progress on implementation. In the past months the Ministry of Interior has successfully coordinated the work of 17 different Palestinian security institutions to develop a new comprehensive Security Sector Strategic Plan, which establishes a clear framework for cooperation between international stakeholders and Palestinian security institutions until 2022. In addition, the Palestinian Civil Police has developed its own strategic plan. The main challenge ahead for the security sector is ensure a successful implementation of the strategy and report regularly on progress.

Effective cooperation detects and prosecutes corruption crimes

AN UPDATE FROM THE MISSION’S RULE OF LAW SECTION

Since 2015, the Mission has worked to facilitate smooth coordination between the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and the Palestinian Civil Police. In 2017, the parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance the cooperation and meet regularly to implement it. Since then this cooperation has deepened and gained momentum. Lately a PCP Liaison Officer has been embedded into PACC. Presently, the Mission is organizing a number of workshops and drafting of SOPs to further advance the cooperation. The improved cooperation is an important achievement as the combined efforts of different law enforcement agencies are crucial to detect and prosecute corruption crimes.

Mission presentation to the EU Political and Security Committee

In January, the Head of Mission, Kauko Aalto-maa, who took office on 23 October 2017, made his first presentation in front of the Political and Security Committee in Brussels on the Mission's latest developments.

Addressing the European Ambassadors, Mr. Aalto-maa highlighted the progress made by the Mission in support of the Justice and Security sectors in Palestine, in particular in the context of Human Rights standards.

He also praised the Mission's good cooperation with local and international partners to move the reforms forward.

The Head of Mission underlined that EUPOL COPPS will remain committed to fulfilling its mandate with the perspective of a two-state solution.
































The European Member States express their continuous support to the Mission and encouraged it to pursue its efforts in a challenging political context.

Facts and figures on

Mission manning

On 1 February 2018, the Mission's strength was 52 internationals, representing 20 Member States and Canada. This number accounts for 73% of the authorized international strength. The number of national staff was 43 compared to an authorized strength of 45. All EU Member States as well as Canada, Norway and Turkey can contribute to the Mission.

International presence in EUPOL COPPS as of 1 February 2018

		Ramallah	Male	Female	Total
Austria		-	-	-	-
Belgium		3	1	2	3
Bulgaria		1	1	-	1
Croatia		-	-	-	-
Cyprus		-	-	-	-
Czech Republic		1	1	-	1
Denmark		3	3	-	3
Estonia		1	1	-	1
Finland		9	7	2	9
France		1	1	-	1
Germany		5	3	2	5
Greece		-	-	-	-
Hungary		1	1	-	1
Ireland		3	2	1	3
Italy		6	4	2	6
Latvia		-	-	-	-
Lithuania		2	1	1	2
Luxembourg		-	-	-	-
Malta		1	1	-	1
Netherlands		2	1	1	2
Poland		-	-	-	-
Portugal		1	1	-	1
Romania		3	1	2	3
Slovakia		-	-	-	-
Slovenia		1	1	-	1
Spain		2	2	-	2
Sweden		3	3	-	3
United Kingdom		2	2	-	2
Canada		1	-	1	1
Norway		-	-	-	-
Turkey		-	-	-	-
Current Strength		52	38	14	52
Authorized Strength		71	-	-	71