

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EU Integrated Border Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya)

February 2014

MISSION BACKGROUND

On 22 May 2013, the Council of the European Union gave the green light for EUBAM Libya, a civilian Mission under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), to support the Libyan authorities in improving and developing the security of the country's borders. This civilian Mission responds to an invitation by Libya and is part of the EU's comprehensive approach, which supports the Libyan post-conflict reconstruction. EUBAM Libya's initial mandate is for two years; its headquarters is in Tripoli although its work benefits all the country's borders. The annual budget of the Mission is around €30 million. When operating at full capacity, the Mission have been planned to have just over 110 international staff.

MANDATE AND OBJECTIVE

EUBAM Libya supports the Libyan authorities in developing border management and security at the country's land, sea and air borders. It does not carry out any executive functions and the Mission is to achieve its objectives mainly through the transfer of know-how, not funds. As a civilian crisis management mission with a capacity-building mandate, EUBAM assists Libyan authorities at strategic and operational level. The work is carried out through advising, training and mentoring Libyan counterparts in strengthening the border services in accordance with international standards and best practices, and by advising the Libyan authorities on the development of a national Integrated Border Management (IBM) strategy.



MISSION ACTIVITIES

At the strategic level EUBAM has helped the Libyan authorities to set up a cross-Ministerial body, Border Management Working Group (BMWG), to coordinate the response among naval, police, border guards, customs, and all the other agencies involved. This has begun work on a strategy to identify Libya's most urgent needs and allocate roles to meet them. The Mission has also taken the lead, in close cooperation with the BMWG, in coordinating international support in the field of border management. The Mission's mandate pertains only to Libya. However, the

strengthening of the Libyan borders should be seen in the wider regional perspective considering the specificities of the Maghreb and Sahel regions. The Mission therefore advises the Libyans on international engagement and cooperation, particularly with its neighbouring countries.

EUBAM has helped the BMWG to set up a secretariat to implement the Tripoli Action Plan on border security as promised in the Rabat Declaration late last year. This would be a major contribution to regional border management.

The content of EUBAM Libya's training, advising and mentoring activities covers all areas of IBM, such as intra and inter-agency cooperation, risk management methods, optimal use of existing equipment and restructuring of agencies to increase effectiveness. These efforts will contribute to state-consolidation, economic development, and the fight against organised crime and terrorism in the country and the wider region.

The Mission has visited a number of sites: Ra's Ajdir, Ghadames, Misrata, Nalut and Sebha. It has also trained and provided border management advice in some of these locations, most notably at Ghadames, close to the Algerian and Tunisian borders. By February 2014, hundreds of Libyan border management staff attended EUBAM trainings. EUBAM Libya's border management experts meet with their counterparts on a daily bases.

Seminars on aviation security, customs best practices and maritime search and rescue, among other, have been held in Tripoli and other locations with local officials. Proposals for restructuring border agencies have been delivered. The recommendation for Maritime search and rescues activities/organization is one example. The Mission, working in coordination with [Frontex](#), the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union, also facilitated an IBM training of Libyan officials from the Border Guard, Coast Guard, Border Police and Customs at the Frontex Headquarters in Warsaw.

COORDINATING WORK WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

EUBAM Libya supports Libyan authorities chairing the International Coordination Meeting on Border Management. This body brings together different countries and organisations which would like to support Libya in the border management field. The Mission has also developed good bi-lateral working relations with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), EU Member States and other key actors.

*The European Union's **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The CSDP allows the Union to develop its civilian and military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention at international level, thus helping to maintain peace and international security, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The CSDP includes a strong conflict prevention component.*

*Based in Brussels, the **Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC)** is the permanent structure responsible for an autonomous operational conduct of civilian CSDP operations. Under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the High Representative, the CPCC ensures the effective planning and conduct of civilian CSDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.*

More information and background documents available on:
www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp