

EUPOL Afghanistan: lessons and best practices

A conference organised by the EU Institute for Security Studies
with the support of the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU

Friday, 16 June 2017
Egmont Palace, Place du Petit Sablon 8bis
Brussels

Programme

EUPOL Afghanistan was established by the Council of the EU on 30 May 2007 as a non-executive Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) civilian mission.

It was mandated to 'significantly contribute to the establishment under Afghan ownership of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements, which will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system, in keeping with the policy advice and institution building work of the Community, Member States and other international actors.'

The Mission was officially terminated at the end of 2016 after ten years of existence.

The objective of the Seminar is to analyse a series of issues in relation to the planning, conduct, and handover of EUPOL Afghanistan so as to identify lessons and best practices for future civilian missions.

The following issues/questions will be addressed:

- How did the planning of EUPOL Afghanistan factor in the local context and associated risks?
- How was the Mission's mandate subsequently amended to adapt to new circumstances on the ground?
- How were local interlocutors involved in the planning phase of the Mission? In subsequent modifications of the Mission's mandate?
- How were the main decision-making bodies reactive to the needs of the Mission? How to further improve the political control and strategic direction of civilian missions?
- How sustainable the achievements of the Mission can be? What were the tools/mechanisms established to ensure a certain level of sustainability? How can these mechanisms be improved?
- How adapted was the Mission's mandate to the local needs?
- How adapted was the Mission's budget to the objectives of the mandate?
- How comprehensive (or integrated) was the EU approach? To what extent coordination was ensured with non-EU actors (NATO, UN, local actors, etc.)?
- How well-prepared was the transition from EUPOL to other stabilisation activities and what could have been done better?

08:30-09:00	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00-09:15	Opening remarks Antonio Missiroli , Director, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)
09:15-10:45	Session I : Mission planning: objectives and constraints
Chair	François Cornet d'Elzius , PSC Ambassador, Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU
Panellists	Joanna Buckley , Former Political Adviser, Office of the Special Representative of the EU for Afghanistan Bert Versmessen , Chief of Staff, Deputy Civilian Operations Commander, Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), European External Action Service (EEAS) Edward Burke , Lecturer in Strategic Studies, University of Portsmouth
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:45	Session II : Mission monitoring: the role of decision-making bodies
Chair	Thierry Tardy , Senior Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)
Panellists	Jean-Baptiste Valmary , Head of Section, Asia and Middle East, Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), European External Action Service (EEAS) Alison Weston , Former Head Of Operations Unit, Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), European External Action Service (EEAS) Tom Galloway , University of Bristol and former UK CivCom Delegate
12:45-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:45	Session III : What EU transition strategy after EUPOL Afghanistan?
Chair	Peter Claes , Deputy Director for Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium
Panellists	Giovanni Cremonini , Chair, CSDP Lessons Working Group, Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD), European External Action Service (EEAS) Nicholas Williams , Head of Afghanistan and Iraq Section, Operations Division, NATO International Staff Eva Gross , Political Advisor and Head of the Political Section, Office of the EUSR, EU Delegation to Afghanistan Micha Ramakers , Team Leader for South Asian countries, Development Coordination South and South East Asia, DG DEVCO, European Commission
15:45	End of the conference