



# EU MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS

EU COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

Around 4,000 EU military and civilian staff are currently deployed in CSDP missions and operations in three continents, working for a more stable world and contributing to a safer Europe



**“Diplomacy requires action to succeed. Our missions and operations are an invaluable pillar of European security and defence. Their work on the ground and across continents is the tangible example of the EU’s action for global security.”**

**JOSEP BORRELL**

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/  
Vice-President of the European Commission

The EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) provides the European Union with an operational capacity to deploy civilian and military missions and operations abroad.

Their tasks range from conflict prevention and peace-keeping, crisis management, joint disarmament operations, and military advice and assistance tasks to humanitarian and rescue and post-conflict stabilisation tasks.

## **BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE - ADAPTING TO NEW SECURITY CHALLENGES**

Since 2003 the EU has launched and run 37 operations and missions on three continents. As of today, there are 18 ongoing CSDP missions and operations, of which 11 are civilian and 7 military.

Since the launch of the first missions and operations, the EU has continuously enhanced its structures, mechanisms and tools to promote stability and security in our neighbourhood and beyond, thereby contributing to increased security in the EU.

## **A TOOL FOR SECURITY**

What happens beyond the EU's borders has a direct impact on the security of European citizens. CSDP missions and operations contribute to global security abroad and at home. Their aim is to help prevent or resolve conflicts and crises, enhance the capacities of partners and, ultimately, protect the European Union and its citizens.

EU decisions to deploy a mission or operation are normally taken at the request of the partner country to which assistance is provided and/or based on a United Nations Security Council Resolution, and always in full respect of international law. These decisions take into account the EU's security interests, EU strategic efforts and regional engagement strategies. They are tailored to the local circumstances and to the tasks that need to be implemented.

CSDP missions and operations can be open to contributions of third States. Up to now, 20 Framework Participation Agreements (FPA) have been signed to facilitate such participation.



