



Civilian Crisis Management

The Story of the EUMM in Georgia



Welcome

It is my pleasure to offer you this photo record of the activities of the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia. Through it our aim is to illustrate to you a wide range of the Mission's activities, from our rapid deployment at the end of September 2008 and the formal start of operations on 1 October 2008 up until the present day.

EUMM is an unarmed civilian monitoring mission operating within the framework of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy. It was launched to monitor the implementation of the EU-brokered agreements of 12 August and 8 September 2008, which effectively ended the August war. Its mandate comprises the four components of stabilisation, normalisation and confidence building, as well as reporting to Brussels to support EU policy-making.

I hope that, in addition to the reports, the press statements and other material available on our website (www.eumm.eu), this brochure will help you gain an understanding of the Mission's daily working activities through the eyes of its staff, as they perform their duties with commitment and dedication.

Hansjörg Haber
Head of Mission
EUMM

EUMM takes to heart the living conditions of the civilian population affected by the war, on either side of the Administrative Boundary Line. Overseeing their return to normal daily life is one of the mission's main objectives.





EUMM's deployment to Georgia was the most rapid ever carried out by the EU. By 1 October 2008 – two weeks after the mission's mandate was agreed - more than 200 monitors from 22 member states were operating effectively on the ground.





Mission staff come from a wide variety of military, police and civilian backgrounds. Their mixture of professional skills and experience has been vital in ensuring that the work is carried out effectively.







One of the Mission's first tasks was to monitor and report about the Russian Armed Forces' withdrawal from the areas adjacent to South Ossetia and Abkhazia, thus enabling some 30,000 Internally Displaced Persons to return to their homes.







Thanks to its extensive field presence, to its 24/7 patrolling and the multifaceted professional background of its staff, the Mission is in a position to gather regular and timely information about developments on the ground.







In spite of a mandate that allows it to perform its monitoring activities throughout the whole territory of Georgia, within its internationally recognised borders, one of the biggest challenges the Mission faces is being denied access to South Ossetia and Abkhazia.





Nevertheless, the Mission has succeeded in developing direct contacts and in facilitating exchanges between actors across the Administrative Boundary Lines. Improving the freedom of movement for all the civilian population is among EUMM's priorities.









With the general purpose of increasing transparency on the Georgian military and police presence in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines, EUMM has concluded two Memoranda of Understanding with both the Georgian Ministry of Defence and the Interior Ministry. Through them, the Georgian authorities have unilaterally accepted to greatly reduce their military presence in sensitive areas. The mission keeps monitoring the implementation of these two arrangements.





Under the Normalisation component of its mandate, the EUMM monitors human rights and humanitarian issues, including the living conditions of Internally Displaced Persons.



Engaging with the population is a key element of the mission's activities. During their daily patrols, monitors speak with local communities and authorities, listen to their needs, views and concerns, and, where appropriate, the Mission conveys the information to the relevant Georgian authorities and international organisations.





The core of our strategy is to provide an objective view of developments on the ground to the EU in Brussels and the capitals of the Member States, thus deflating tension and preventing potential incidents.



Meetings of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) offer an opportunity for participants from Georgia, Russia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia as well as EUMM, the OSCE and the UN to discuss a wide variety of issues. The focus is primarily on security along the Administrative Boundary Lines and the living conditions of the local population on both sides of the divide.



As agreed within the framework of the Geneva talks, IPRM meetings take place in both the Abkhaz and the South Ossetian theatres.



A “hot line” system connecting all IPRM participants allows them to exchange information promptly, thus deflating possible tensions and avoiding potentially destabilising security incidents.





In addition to its daily interaction with the population, EUMM conducts regular outreach activities with local communities. The mission widely contests, film screenings, seminars and discussion





distributes information material like leaflets and posters, holds presentations in schools and universities, and organises special activities such as photography fora, including special events for Human Rights and EU Days.





Through its activities, EUMM is well placed to assist in the establishment of a degree of cooperation between law-enforcement agencies across both Administrative Boundary Lines. Building confidence between those responsible for security is the precondition for greater stability on the ground and an improved sense of safety within the local populations.







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