



Background

The European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) is an unarmed civilian monitoring mission. It was established by the European Union on 15 September 2008.

Over 200 civilian monitors were deployed to Georgia by EU Member States to contribute to the stabilisation of the situation on the ground following the 2008 August War. They monitor compliance by all sides with the EU-brokered Six-Point Agreement of 12 August 2008, signed by both Georgia and the Russian Federation, and the Agreement on Implementing Measures of 8 September 2008.

The Mission started its monitoring activities on 1 October 2008, beginning with oversight of the withdrawal of Russian armed forces from the areas adjacent to South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Ever since, the Mission has been patrolling day and night, particularly in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines of the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.



The Mission's efforts have been primarily directed at observing the situation on the ground, reporting on incidents and, generally, through its presence in the relevant areas, contributing to an improved security situation.

Mandate

The Mission's mandate consists of stabilisation, normalisation and confidence-building, as well as reporting to the EU and its Member States in order to inform European policy-making and thus contribute to EU engagement in the region.

Originally authorised for 12 months, the mandate has since been extended seven times. On 03 December 2018, the European Council extended it until 14 December 2020.

The EUMM is mandated to cover the whole territory of Georgia, within the country's internationally recognised borders. Other than a few joint visits on specific cases, the de-facto authorities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia have so far denied the Mission access to the territories under their control.

First and foremost, the Mission is working with all parties to prevent any return to armed conflict, as well as to help make the areas adjacent to the South Ossetian and Abkhazian Administrative Boundary Lines safe and secure for the local population.

The Mission wants to contribute to the freedom of movement of citizens who live close to the Administrative Boundary Lines so that they can go about their daily lives without fear and obstacles.

Implementation of the Mandate

Mission Facts and Figures

Country:	Georgia
Headquarters:	Tbilisi
Field Offices:	Gori, Mtskheta and Zugdidi
Starting date:	1 October 2008
Current Mandate:	Effective until 14 December 2020
Head of Mission:	Erik Høeg
Mission strength:	Over 200 EU monitors
Mission budget:	€38.2 million
States participating:	All EU Member States can contribute to the Mission

The EU Member States have contributed personnel, both women and men, from a variety of civilian, police and military backgrounds to the Mission. The Mission has its Headquarters in Tbilisi and three regional Field Offices in Mtskheta, Gori and Zugdidi. The monitors in each Field Office are split into three specialised teams covering:

- The Administrative Boundary Lines and the areas adjacent to them, monitoring issues pertaining to stabilisation, normalisation and confidence-building;
- Compliance with the Agreements signed between the Mission and the Georgian Ministries of Defence and Internal Affairs as well as the State Security Services of Georgia;
- Human Security Aspects of conflict management.

The implementation of the Mandate is governed by three agreements between the EUMM and the Georgian government:

- The Provisional Arrangement for the Exchange of Information signed between the EUMM and the Georgian Ministry of Defence in January 2009, and amended in July 2010, limits the Georgian Armed Forces'

positioning of troops and heavy equipment in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines. This unilateral pledge made by the Georgian government contributes to security and stability on the ground as well as substantiating its commitment to the principle of non-use of force, as contained in the Six-Point Agreement. Security would be further enhanced, if reciprocating measures were introduced and an reciprocal pledge made by the Russian Federation;

- The Technical Arrangements signed between the EUMM and the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs in October 2008 introduces a degree of transparency and imposes restrictions on the equipment used and the activities performed by the Georgian Police Forces in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines. Security would be further enhanced, if this unilateral Georgian commitment and restrictive measures were reciprocated by the security structures of the Russian Federation;
- The Technical Agreement signed between the EUMM and the State Security Services of Georgia (SSSG) in November 2015 provides the EUMM with privileges to monitor the SSSG structures and personnel in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines, thus increasing transparency of the SSSG activities. Similarly to the agreement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, it contains a unilateral pledge by the Georgian government to impose restrictions on the activities and equipment of the SSSG in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines.

Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism

Under an agreement reached at the Geneva International Discussions in February 2009, regular meetings under the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) take place between the parties to the conflict. Participants from the EUMM, UN, OSCE, Georgia, Russia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia discuss and resolve specific incidents and issues. The meetings have proven useful in developing greater confidence and co-operation between the parties.

Attached to the IPRM is a “Hotline” telephone system working in both theatres. The Hotline has proven very useful for participants to quickly establish a common understanding of events surrounding specific incidents and it has repeatedly helped to de-escalate possible tensions.

Thanks to its extensive presence on the ground, the EUMM has the capacity to gather regular and timely information on the situation. Where appropriate, this information is passed on to the relevant local, national and international bodies responsible for providing adequate assistance.



Main Challenges and Progress

While results on the stabilisation component of EUMM's mandate are tangible, significant work remains to be done as far as confidence-building is concerned. At the same time, the EUMM insists that giving it access also to South Ossetia and Abkhazia would help increase transparency, bring clarity on incidents that have already taken place and thus decrease the risk of future destabilising incidents.

The 2008 Six-Point Agreement, together with the implementing measures, remains the basis for the continued presence of the EUMM on the ground and its efforts to maintain the situation stable. Point Five of the Agreement remains to be implemented, as the continued presence of Russian Federation military personnel and equipment in both South Ossetia and Abkhazia represents a violation of this part of the Agreement.

In the autumn of 2008, there were widespread concerns that a resumption of hostilities was a real possibility. Today, although the conflict is far from finding its solution, there is a greater sense of security among the parties to the conflict and the affected population, and the process of stabilisation has been consolidated.

The Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism meetings have registered sizable success, especially by offering an opportunity for all participants to discuss events and incidents, raise issues of concern on the general security situation and the conditions for the civilian population.

The EUMM is perceived by EU Member States and others as an important contributor to safeguard security and stability on the ground.