



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EUFOR Operation ALTHEA European Union Military Operation Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

Updated: Mar 2019

Mission Background

The European Union Force (EUFOR) Operation ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was launched on 2 December 2004, and has contributed to the maintenance of the Safe and Secure Environment in BiH ever since. The launch of Operation ALTHEA followed the decision by NATO to conclude its Stabilisation Force (SFOR) Operation and adopt UN Security Council Resolution 1575, authorising the deployment of EUFOR in BiH.

Operation “ALTHEA” – EUFOR’s Mandate and Main Objectives

On the basis of its executive mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, EUFOR is responsible for the implementation of the military annexes of the Dayton Peace Agreement, also known as the General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP).

The Force has since contributed to the maintenance and stability of a Safe and Secure Environment in BiH and helped to promote a climate in which the peace process can continue.

Since the mission started the responsibility for the execution of many tasks has been handed over to the local authorities according to the principle of “local ownership” and in line with BiH’s path towards EU membership. Nevertheless, EUFOR retains full responsibility and authority to re-take control, if the situation so requires.

EUFOR’s Main Objectives

- Supporting the overall EU comprehensive approach for BiH.
- Ensuring a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) in the country, especially supporting BiH authorities.
- Supporting combined and collective training activities and exercise with the Armed Forces of BiH.

FACTS and FIGURES	
Mission Area: Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Headquarters: Headquarters: Camp Butmir, Sarajevo	
Mandate started: 2 December 2004	
Mandate renewed: 6 November 2018 - UN Resolution 2443 (2018) for another year.	
Operation Commander: Lieutenant General Olivier Rittimann (France)	
Force Commander: Major General Martin Dorfer (Austria)	
Mission Strength: 600	
Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) 20 Countries: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.	
Mission Budget: Euro 10.3 million	
www.euforbih.org	

Activities

Multinational Battalion (MNBN)

The EUFOR military manoeuvre unit, the MNBN, is based in Camp Butmir near Sarajevo. It currently comprises troops from Austria, Hungary and Turkey.

The MNBN is motorised, equipped, and trained to respond to different kinds of situations. Additionally the troops routinely participate in joint training serials with the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH).

EUFOR Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT)

EUFOR retains its presence throughout BiH through small teams of soldiers living in EUFOR LOT Houses across the country. They are in touch with the local authorities and the population as well as other agencies to monitor the general situation across Bosnia and Herzegovina and to be aware of local issues that could affect the security situation.

The 17 EUFOR LOT Houses provide information for the EUFOR Headquarters in Sarajevo and are guided by the LOT Co-ordination Centre (LCC) in Camp Butmir.

Combined and Collective Training

AFBiH has, from the end of 2018, conducted all of its own individual military training, following the successful conclusion of the EUFOR Capacity Building and Training program (2010 – 2018).

In December 2018 a joint agreement on Combined and Collective training was signed between AFBiH and EUFOR.

This training agreement was formulated in order to ensure continued co-operation between Armed Forces BiH and EUFOR, and for future integration and co-operation on an international level.

Joint Military Affairs (JMA)

BiH still has large stockpiles of weapons and mines left over from the war (1992-1995), many of which become more dangerous as time passes.

EUFOR provides essential expertise, support, monitoring and mentoring to the 'Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives Masterplan' which is owned by the BiH MoD and supported by the EU and International Community.

EUFOR is also a key contributor to the scheme 'BiH Mine Free by 2025': it provides Subject Matter Expertise, supports the Demining Battalion of the BiH Armed Forces and educates vulnerable adults and children on the risks posed by mines (over 17000 in 2017).

EUFOR undertakes a role in Arms Control by conducting verifications and inspections of Defence Industry Factories (which produce weapons for internal and export markets). It also trains and monitors BiH personnel in Ammunition Delaboration (making out of date and/or unexploded weapons safe).

Political Control and Strategic Direction

EUFOR is the peace-keeping, military presence of the EU in BiH. Politically, the EU is represented by the EU's Special Representative and Head of the EU Delegation – currently Mr Lars-Gunnar Wigemark.

BiH aims to become a candidate for EU membership, having responded to the European Commission's questionnaire for potential candidate states (28 Feb 2018).

There are, however, still big challenges ahead:

- The leadership of the three "constituent peoples" still disagrees on the foundations of BiH.
- Public institutions are costly, fragmented and partly dysfunctional. The reconciliation process, which is crucial for progress, goes slowly.
- Political dialogue in 2018/19 has seen a significant increase in inflammatory nationalistic rhetoric.
- Some figures in the political elite fear "rule-of-law" standards.
- Short election cycles (general and local elections alternating in a 2-year rhythm) do not contribute to political continuity.

Military Direction

EUFOR's current mandate from the United Nations Security Council will expire in November 2019, however there are no indications that it will not be renewed.

EUFOR's in-theatre personnel can be augmented at short-notice by Intermediate Reserve Forces under the 'Berlin Plus' arrangement with NATO should the situation require it.

NATO has a presence in BiH, working with the authorities towards NATO Membership Action Plan. However, recent surveys suggest that the people of BiH look to the EU, rather than NATO, as the organisation to ensure a continued safe and secure environment.

The European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy that may 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.

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