



Peacebuilding: Swiss participation in EU missions

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Switzerland participates in civilian missions and military peacekeeping missions conducted by international organisations and second experts from the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding (SEP) and Swiss military personnel to them. This includes its participation in EU crisis management and peacebuilding missions carried out within the framework of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Switzerland is currently involved in three EU missions: EUFOR ALTHEA, the EU's military peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina; EULEX, the EU's civilian mission in Kosovo; and EUCAP Sahel Mali, the EU's civilian security sector reform mission in Mali.

Chronology

- Since 2016: Swiss participation in the civilian mission EUCAP Sahel Mali
- Since 2008: Swiss participation in the civilian mission EULEX Kosovo
- Since 2004: Swiss participation in the military mission EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Switzerland's current participation in EU missions

The EU regularly invites third countries to second experts to support its civilian missions and military peacekeeping operations. Switzerland is currently participating in three EU missions:

- EUFOR ALTHEA military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina: since November 2004, Switzerland has supported the EU's military peacekeeping mission EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a maximum of 20 members of the Swiss Armed Forces at any one time. Switzerland provides two liaison and observation teams (LOTs), consisting of eight Swiss nationals located in Mostar and Trebinje, and four staff officers based at the EUFOR headquarters in Sarajevo – it is thus an integral part of the early warning system on the ground. Since June 2011, up to six Swiss small arms, ammunition and language specialists have been deployed in a multinational mobile training team (MTT) that provides training to armed forces personnel on the safe and secure management of ammunition and weapons stockpiles. Since 2013, a Swiss staff officer has served as special adviser on weapons and ammunition management to the commander of EUFOR ALTHEA.
- Rule of law mission in Kosovo: Switzerland has participated in the EU's civilian rule of law mission EULEX in Kosovo since July 2008. For over a decade, Switzerland seconded up to 12 experts at any one time to EULEX to support the Kosovar authorities in building up judicial, police and border guard agencies in line with rule of law principles. Two Swiss experts are currently deployed at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office in The Hague, which is under the administrative authority of EULEX Kosovo.
- Mission on civilian security sector reform in Mali: since 2016, Switzerland has seconded experts to the EU's civilian security sector reform mission in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali). It provides training for Mali's civilian security forces and is active in border management, migration and combating criminal activity associated with these areas. Two experts are currently on location to support the mission's forensic and border management training activities.
- Border protection mission in Libya: an agreement has been in place since 2014 allowing for Switzerland's participation in the EU's Border Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya). This aims to enhance Libya's border management and support

its government's efforts to develop an integrated border management (IBM) strategy. In view of the security situation on the ground, Switzerland has, to date, not deployed any personnel to EUBAM Libya.

Significant contribution

Through the CSDP, the EU makes a significant contribution to global peace and security. It has deployed over 37 missions since 2003, most of them with a civilian mandate. 21 EU missions are currently under way: 12 civilian and 9 military. Around half are deployed in Africa.

Switzerland's commitment to peace and security is enshrined in the Federal Constitution and is a priority of Swiss foreign policy. The deployment of Swiss experts to peacebuilding missions across the globe is an integral part of this commitment. The EU's CSDP is one of the main instruments (along with the UN, OSCE and NATO) through which Switzerland contributes to multilateral peacebuilding. Switzerland selects the missions to which it contributes based on its foreign and security policy priorities and areas of expertise.

Completed Swiss deployments in EU missions/ operations abroad

EU civilian missions
EUPOL Proxima police mission in Northern Macedonia
AMM Aceh monitoring mission in Indonesia
EUPOL police mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
EUPM police mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina
EUAM advisory mission for civilian security sector reform in Ukraine
EU military peacekeeping operations
EUFOR in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (short deployment of two unarmed military medical specialists)
EUTM in Mali (civilian mission)

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<https://www.eda.admin.ch/europa/en/home/weitere-dossiers/friedensfoerderung.html>

Further information

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