



EUROPEAN UNION

~FACTSHEET~

EU MILITARY OPERATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (OPERATION EUFOR - ALTHEA)

The parameters of the operation

- The EU launched the military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Operation EUFOR ALTHEA on 2 December 2004 in a seamless transition from NATO SFOR mission. This is the third military operation in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). (After EU Military Operation CONCORDIA in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and EU Military Operation ARTEMIS in the Democratic Republic of Congo.)
- The EU deployed force (EUFOR) is a robust one, with the same force levels as SFOR (7,000 troops) - under a UN Chapter VII mandate (UNSCR 1575 adopted on 22 November 2004). In addition to twenty-two EU Member States, Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Switzerland and Turkey participate in the operation.
- The main objectives of Operation Althea are:
 - First and foremost, to maintain a safe and secure environment in BiH and to ensure continued compliance with the Dayton/Paris Agreement;
 - Also, to support the international community's High Representative in BiH and the local authorities, inter alia, in the fight against organised crime.
- In addition, EUFOR provides support to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and relevant authorities, including for the detention of indictees. It also contributes to defence reform in BiH.
- ALTHEA is carried out with recourse to NATO assets and capabilities, on the basis agreed with NATO ("Berlin Plus"). Its Headquarters are established in Sarajevo (Camp Butmir).
- The EU Force Commander is Major General David LEAKEY (UK).
- The EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC) exercises the political control and strategic direction of the operation, under the responsibility of the Council.
- The common costs of Operation Althea are estimated at € 71.7 million in 2005 and are paid through contributions by Member States based on GDP.

EUFOR is part of a broader EU policy and presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Operation Althea reinforces the EU's political engagement, its assistance programmes and its ongoing police and monitoring missions in BiH. The Stabilisation and Association Process will help BiH make further progress towards European integration, paving its way to future

accession. Without prejudice to Community competences, the EU Special Representative (EUSR) Lord Ashdown promotes overall EU political co-ordination in BiH. At the same time, he also functions as the High Representative of the International Community.

Main achievements

- **Deterrence and reassurance** is ensured by exerting presence, visibility, robustness, and above all authority. EUFOR inspected and closed the Han Pijesak underground facilities, establishing its credibility and visibility from its very beginning. EUFOR, seen as the military force in charge, also gained good perception and support among local authorities.
- **Support to the EU, the international community and the local authorities.** Whilst it is not a police force, EUFOR provides support to the fight against organized crime by putting pressure on networks and developing and strengthening the capacity of local police and agencies. By doing so, EUFOR helps disrupting support to ICTY indictees and contributes to a stable and secure environment in a complementary way.

For more information go to:

ALTHEA website of the Council: http://ue.eu.int/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=745&lang=en

EU-BiH relations website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/sec/bosnie_herze/index.htm

February 2005