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**NOTE**

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From:	Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management
To:	Political and Security Committee
Subject:	CivCom Advice on the Strategic Reviews of EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah

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**DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC 19.05.2015)**

Delegations will find attached the CivCom Advice on the Strategic Reviews of EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah, as finalised by the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CivCom) at its meeting on 22 April 2015.

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## **CIVCOM ADVICE**

### **on the Strategic Reviews of EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1. On 24 March 2015 the PSC tasked CivCom to provide an advice on the Strategic Reviews of EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah.
2. At the CivCom meeting on 25 March 2015 CMPD gave a presentation on the Strategic Reviews, which was followed by a preliminary orientation discussion.
3. On 1, 15 and 22 April 2015 CivCom discussed and agreed the following advice:

#### **2. CONSIDERATIONS**

##### **General**

4. CivCom welcomed the Strategic Reviews of EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah and discussed its analysis and conclusions.
5. CivCom acknowledged that the Strategic Reviews are based on the political framework defined by the Council in its conclusions on Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) of 17 November 2014 in which the EU reinforced its commitment to the PA state building process, including through CSDP missions, aiming at a Palestinian state based on rule of law and human rights.
6. CivCom recalled the importance of continued EU commitment to Gaza and the EU's third party role to the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access. CivCom reiterates the EU's strong interests to avoid a recurrence of violence in Gaza and to enhance movement and access into/out of the Gaza Strip. In this regard CivCom recalled the Council Conclusions of 17. November 2014, which called for the end of closure of Gaza and which underlined that a return to the status quo prior to the last conflict is not an option.

7. CivCom acknowledged that EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah contribute to EU's overall political and strategic objectives and to a Palestinian state based on rule of law and respect for human rights.
8. CivCom underlined the need for strengthening political and diplomatic support to both missions, including through EU Member States as an important element to advance further to mandate implementation, PA ownership and overall CSDP engagement. CivCom underlined the need for continued mutual support of the Heads of Mission EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah by the appropriate political and diplomatic representation at the higher level.

### **EUBAM Rafah**

9. CivCom recommended that EUBAM Rafah remains prepared to return to the Rafah Crossing Point (RCP) once political and security situation allows.
10. CivCom endorsed the continuation of the PA Preparedness Project, aiming at helping the PA General Agency for Border and Crossings in further developing operational capabilities for running the RCP according to international standards. In this regard CivCom stressed the need to explore ways to sustain the Mission's activities, to be discussed in the framework of the coming operational planning process, preferably on a budgetary neutral basis.

### **EUPOL COPPS**

11. **DELETED**
12. CivCom noted that the engagement of EUPOL COPPS is well embedded in the EU comprehensive approach and encouraged further work on developing synergies, both within the EU and with partner countries and organisations.

13. **DELETED**

14. **DELETED**

15. **DELETED**

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

16. Taking into account the considerations above, CivCom recommends that:

- EUBAM Rafah be extended for one year in order to continue with the implementation of the PA Preparedness Project as per the recommendations of the Strategic Review, while maintaining its readiness to redeploy once conditions allow;
- EUPOL COPPS be extended for one year in order to progress the implementation of the recommendations of the Strategic Review;

- Both missions be extended, in principle, for a further one year to June 2017, based on the agreement of local parties and after due consideration of an Interim Strategic Review to be presented in Spring 2016.
- CPCC presents to CivCom a draft revised OPLAN for EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah reflecting the outcome of the Strategic review.
- CivCom underlined the need for strengthening political and diplomatic support to both missions, including through EU Member States as an important element to advance further mandate implementation, PA ownership and overall CSDP engagement.

17. CivCom invites the PSC to take note of this advice and endorse its recommendations.

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