



The EU Monitoring Mission...

Ten Years of Continuous Presence in Georgia

October 1st, 2018 marked the tenth anniversary of the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM). The EUMM was established following the August 2008 conflict. EU Member States decided to deploy at least 200 civilian monitors to contribute to security and stability, for an initial period of one year. The mandate of the Mission has been extended ever since, as a clear commitment by the EU to regional stability.

Our experts monitor that all parties abide by the EU-brokered Six-Point Agreement of 12 August 2008. The agreement was brokered by the European Union and signed by both Georgia and the Russian Federation. Its method of implementation was detailed in a subsequent document titled the 'Agreement on Implementing Measures' of 8 September 2008. Later additional technical agreements were signed with key Georgian institutions,



specifying commitments by Georgian authorities to stability and transparency.

Since deployment, the Mission has patrolled day and night, every day of the week. The mandate of the Mission covers the whole of Georgia within the borders that are recognized by the international community – including South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Unfortunately, the Mission was never able to carry out its mandated tasks in these regions. However, during the past 10 years, the Mission has used all monitoring means at its disposal to follow developments in the whole of Georgia. This included gradually introducing more advanced technological means into its toolkit. In terms of patrolling by EUMM

monitors, the focus has been on covering the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) – which separates the part of the country under central government control from the breakaway regions.

The first and most important task in the early days of the Mission was to help ensure an end to hostilities after the conflict.

EUMM activities started with oversight of the withdrawal of Russian armed forces from the territory adjacent to South Ossetia and Abkhazia. This culminated in Russian forces leaving the area near the village of Perevi at the South

Ossetian ABL in October 2010. There were still cases of armed clashes and shooting at the ABL well into 2012. The EUMM presence and monitoring gradually helped reduce this.

Since 2008, more than 1,700 contracted and seconded personnel from all 28 EU member states have served in the EUMM, illustrating the very strong support – both politically and in terms of resources – to the activities of the Mission. The EUMM to date has conducted over 65,000 patrols. One of the key tasks of the EUMM is to report to EU capitals and EU institutions on a whole range of areas—ranging from military dynamics to the socioeconomic conditions of Internally Displaced Persons who fled in the aftermath of the conflict. This gives decision makers in EU organisations and EU Member States the necessary updates allowing them to take informed decisions about conflict issues.

The EUMM has also established itself as the main source of reliable information for the wider international community concerning developments at the ABL and beyond.

The EUMM is the only international monitoring presence on the ground as international Missions deployed by the UN (UNOMIG) and OSCE (OSCE Mission to Georgia) were discontinued in 2009. The basis for the collection of information and reporting by the EUMM is the principle of “operational impartiality”. Reporting must be fact based and unbiased.

In the South Ossetian theatre, physical ‘borderisation’ includes more than 60 km of security fences, 20 km of surveillance equipment, over 200 ‘Republic of South Ossetia border’ signs, 19 Russian border guard bases and four controlled crossing points.

In the Abkhaz theatre, physical ‘borderisation’ includes over 30 km of fences, surveillance towers with an ABL coverage of approximately 25 km, 19 Russian border guard bases and two controlled crossing points.

The constant presence of EUMM patrols and monitors at the ABL clearly has a stabilizing and confidence - building effect. The EUMM has regular patrolling patterns and is able to deploy patrols at very short notice to potential hotspots from its three Field Offices in Zugdidi, Gori and Mtskheta. By maintaining a visible presence along the ABLs, the Mission has increased a sense of safety for the conflict-affected population. This has been enhanced by various activities as the Mission engages in building dialogue, trust and cooperation across the ABLs.

During its ten years of continuous presence on the ground, the Mission has seen security improve, moving from a situation in 2008/2009 where Georgian police lost their lives or were injured along the ABL. Shooting incidents were not infrequent compared to the relative stability today. Serious challenges remain at the ABL, and the conflict remains unresolved. Nonetheless, a situation without clashes and armed confrontation must in itself be

assessed as a major achievement.

The relative stability, however, has taken place against a backdrop of ever-increasing challenges for the population most affected by the conflict – especially women, men and children living near the ABLs. Their freedom of movement, economic opportunities and basic rights have come under pressure during the past decade. Developments have affected their opportunities to maintain social relations, protect their property rights, to have a decent income, and for children to be educated in their mother tongue.

One of the key dynamics which the Mission has been closely monitoring since 2009 is so-called ‘borderisation’ - the process of establishing *de facto* state ‘borders’ between the territories controlled by the Georgian government and the two regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The ambition of the Russian Federation and decision - makers in Tskhinvali and Sukhumi has been to establish tight checks and control over ‘territory’ of the breakaway regions.



'Borderisation' encompasses three main elements:

- (1) the establishment of physical infrastructure to force commuters, vehicles and goods to use special 'controlled crossing points' established at the ABL;*
- (2) surveillance and patrolling by either Russian border guards or security actors from the breakaway regions that monitor the situation and detain people if they are in violation of established 'rules';*
- (3) a crossing regime requiring commuters to have specific documents and only use 'official' crossing points.*

Gradually since 2009, physical barriers and other measures have been established to block people from crossing the ABL freely. The physical infrastructure includes fencing and barbed wire, signs informing people that they are approaching the so-called 'borders' of the self-proclaimed 'republics', guard towers and advanced surveillance equipment. Over the years, this incremental process has made the ABLs – both in the Abkhazia and South Ossetian areas - more and more impenetrable and securitized. The closing of three crossings points at the Abkhazia ABL in 2016-2017 was a major challenge for local villagers wanting to cross, despite some mitigating measures put in place by the de facto authorities.

The 'borderisation' process followed the construction of Russian bases and the deployment of Russian border guards in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Border guards of the Russian Federation are the main force responsible for protecting the so-called 'borders' of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

The restrictions on freedom of



movement adversely affect livelihoods of villagers on both sides of the ABL. It impairs access to properties, agricultural land, medical assistance,



places of worship, education and justice. In the agricultural sphere, the gradual borderisation has meant that villagers have lost access to land plots near or straddling the ABL. The process of transhumance has been severely affected, depriving some of the most vulnerable people of income.

After ten years, the Mission continues to advocate freedom of movement of people who live close to the ABL and for a humanitarian approach to be shown in cases where people are detained, particularly where elderly or children are involved. The local population should be free to go about their daily lives without fear or unnecessary obstacles. The Mission also closely monitors developments when it comes to rights to education in one's mother tongue, as well as initiatives that may affect other fundamental rights, such as property rights and freedom of expression.

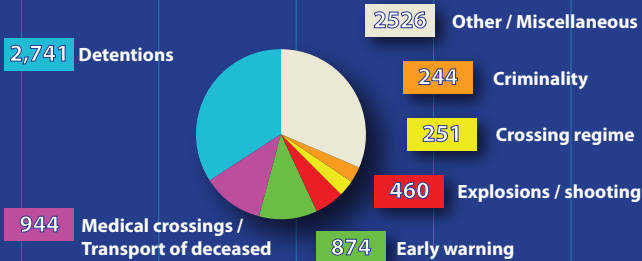
Confidence - building was central to

Borderisation has resulted in many detentions through the years. The detention of civilians for crossing the ABL remains a significant concern: since the beginning of 2018, there have been at least 650 Hotline activations concerning detention cases. The EUMM works to resolve these and other issues, wherever it can, through the Hotline and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) meetings.

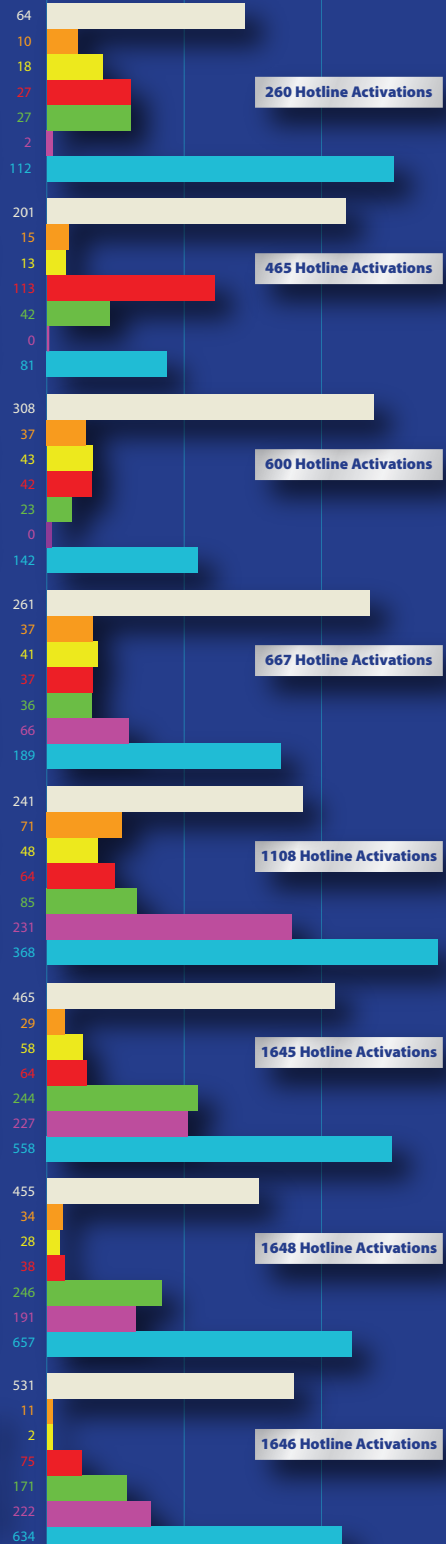


The Mission plays an essential role in managing and facilitating the two existing communication channels. One is the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism meetings and the second is the telephone Hotline that is managed by the EUMM. Both became essential platforms for managing stability and improving the lives of the local populations still suffering from the aftermath of war.

8,039 Hotline activations from 2011 to September 2018



2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
(till 25 Sep)



the Mission's mandate from the beginning. It has gained increasing importance, as mechanisms were developed to enhance communication and information sharing between Georgia, Russia and the breakaways.

Two IPRM mechanisms exist – one normally held in Gali dealing with issues in the Abkhazia theatre, the other convened in Ergneti to discuss incidents and developments at the South Ossetian ABL. The meetings in Gali are chaired by the UN, but with EUMM as one of the participants. The EUMM co-facilitates the Ergneti IPRM meetings with the OSCE. Both formats commenced in 2009 based on agreement reached at the Geneva International Discussions – the format set up after the 2008 war to address the consequences of the conflict.

The IPRMs are deemed non-political, where people involved in managing security and human security issues on the ground meet to address current challenges. It also discusses how to prevent incidents and new problems for people living at the ABL. Beyond providing a format for valuable face-to-face communication, the IPRMs have therefore resulted in numerous practical achievements, ranging from the release of detainees to cross-ABL cooperation on agricultural matters and other issues important to local villagers. This being said, the IPRM meetings have also faced many challenges over the past ten years, including lengthy disruptions due to disagreements between leading participants on sensitive issues. Currently, the IPRMs – which remain essential to manage the security situation on the ground – remain interrupted.

Despite temporary disruptions to the IPRM format, other means of cross-ABL communication are constant and very efficient. Recognising the importance of communication across the ABL, despite deep disagreements at the political level, a 'Hotline' was established in 2009.

The EUMM plays an essential role in keeping the Hotline infrastructure running and transmitting messages across the ABL. The Hotline has proved essential in discussing developments on the ground.

The use of the Hotline increased year-on-year, rising from 30 activations in 2009 to 1,700 in 2017 – averaging 4.6 calls a day. During the entire decade, over 8,000 Hotline activations took place. All security actors have 'Hotline Holders' that activate the Hotline or respond to queries coming from others. The Hotline is open 24/7 and activated instantly whenever needed. The main issues currently discussed over the Hotline refer to detentions - the Mission, for example, facilitating releases by ensuring the swift exchange of information about civilians who have been detained at the ABL. The second highest number of activations relate to medical crossings, an area where the Hotline continues to save lives by coordinating the transfer of patients in need of medical assistance. A number of other issues are typically addressed through

the Hotline, so that all sides have the facts needed to discuss concrete problems. The Hotline is used to discuss new borderisation features, or reports of shootings or artillery fire heard close to the ABL. This dialogue mechanism clearly helps to reduce tensions.

As previously mentioned, the Mission has never been granted access to South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Consequently, the Mission developed other means of observation and used new technologies to maintain an awareness of developments at the ABL and in the breakaways. These include the acquisition of vehicle-mounted cameras on tall masts and more recently the 'High-Lifted Camera System' - a camera mounted on an aerostat (tethered balloon).

Since its inception, the Mission closely monitors the human rights situation among the conflict-affected population. By using a combination of ground-patrols, open source analysis and satellite imagery the Mission monitors the human rights situation in all three theatres. The Mission reports regularly on the impact of on-going 'borderisation' and other efforts by the de facto authorities to consolidate their respective control over the breakaway territories. Observations include, but are not limited to, any increase in restrictions on basic human rights such as freedom of movement, freedom from arbitrary detention, freedom of religion, access to education, the right to family life and others. The Mission uses all resources at its disposal to address the human rights situation with the parties in conflict and occasionally organises technical meetings between the parties outside of the regular IPRMs.

As a Mission of the EU, the EUMM continues to strongly advocate the role of women in its own organisation and in the conflict resolution process in general. The EUMM is the CSDP Mission with the highest proportion of female staff and a strong female presence in its management team. Because of these efforts, the Mission is seen as a model of best practice in this regard and is regularly invited to share its experience with other Missions and international organisations.

In the autumn of 2008, there were widespread concerns that a resumption of hostilities was a real possibility. Today, although the conflict remains unresolved, there is a greater sense of security among the affected population – though fears understandably persist.

The Mission's overall presence, the capacity of its patrols to quickly react to incidents, and the efficient daily communication through the Hotline have played an integral part in reducing tensions and managing the fragile security situation.



Incidents do occur daily and the Mission continues to work to handle such challenges until a lasting solution to the conflict, acceptable to all involved, can be reached.



Mr. Erik Høeg explains in detail the activities, achievements, results and challenges of the EUMM

Mr. Høeg, in your opinion, how productive has the Mission's work been in the past 10 years? Have there been concrete results?

The EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) continues to make a difference in ensuring a safe and normal life for local communities living in areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines (ABL) between the Tbilisi-administered territory and the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

There has been no return to hostilities and the EUMM has had an important impact by its very presence and continuous patrolling both day and night and in all weather conditions. Many take the lack of daily incidents at the ABL for granted – but I don't think we should. To handle the situation we need mechanisms. The IPRMs are facing difficulties now, but it is important not to underestimate their value allowing for face-to-face discussion on sensitive and urgent topics affecting security. The very effective use of the EUMM managed Hotline is very positive and a clear success. It is activated during incidents or occasions related to stability and where it affects the lives of people living at the ABLs. In other words, it is a way to 'reduce tensions by phone'. Altogether, the Mission – deployed on the ground, constantly monitoring and reporting and ready to react by supporting communication and dialogue – remains highly relevant and essential to manage the security situation.



Head of Mission, Mr. Erik Høeg, talks to local TV channels about the EUMM Special Prize for Peace Journalism before the award ceremony commences, December 2017

Could you tell us about the difficulties you face during everyday work? In addition, what are the key challenges you would like to overcome?

In terms of the mandate itself, the main problem remains our restricted possibilities to monitor in the breakaways. From the very first day the Mission arrived in Georgia, we have been denied access to both South Ossetia and Abkhazia. We continue our efforts and the EU has a clear policy regarding our Areas of Responsibility where we should be patrolling, which is the whole of Georgia. In terms of my team, I am obviously focused on ensuring that they are safe, properly equipped and trained to handle the security challenges at the ABL. The situation is definitely better with respect to the risk of encounters with armed personnel and other immediate threats than in the early days. Tragically, a local staff member supporting the Mission died in 2009 while accompanying a patrol. Certain risks persist. Unexploded ordnances in areas where we regularly patrol, for example, are one of the security problems we have to face. We focus on ensuring the best possible protection for our team of 320 national and international staff members.

Do you think that the presence of the EUMM helps prevent escalations along the Administrative Boundary Lines with the breakaway regions? How serious is the risk of significant escalations in these areas?

Yes. The presence of EUMM at the Administrative Boundary Lines is a preventative measure in itself. The risk of significant escalation is always there, however unlikely it may seem today. The Mission describes the security situation along the Administrative Boundary Lines as one of 'managed stability'. What this means is that the risk of incidents is low, but this is also because of the Mission's presence on the ground in these areas and the ability to react quickly if something happens. We can quickly deploy monitors to the spot and activate the confidence - building mechanisms in place. The Hotline is actively used to keep one another informed – in 2018, there is an average of six activations each day. Additionally, participants from both sides of the Administrative Boundary Line meet in person in the framework of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, which have normally been held on a monthly basis.

In the end, we hope to make ourselves superfluous. We all hope that one day a lasting solution to the conflict will be found that will not require a Mission like ours to be on the ground. Until then, the Mission will continue to patrol day and night, helping to maintain stability in the region.

Between 2008 and 2018...

The EU Monitoring Mission has been headed by five EU diplomats



Ambassador Hansjörg Haber served in EUMM Georgia as the first Head of Mission from October 2008 until April 2011. He is a German diplomat with previous experience as German Ambassador in Lebanon, Russia, Turkey and other countries. Ambassador Haber left Georgia at the end of April 2011 to become the EU Civilian Operations Commander and Head of the EU Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) in Brussels. In September 2017 he was accredited as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Sanaa, Yemen.

Ambassador Andrzej Tyszkiewicz (deceased) served in EUMM Georgia as the second Head of Mission from July 2011 until June 2013. Ambassador Tyszkiewicz was a Polish diplomat, and before that a Lieutenant General (retired). He had previously served as the Commanding General of the Multinational Division Central-South in Iraq, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Land Forces, as well as Defence, Military and Naval Attaché in Ankara, Turkey.



Mr. Toivo Klaar served in EUMM Georgia as the third Head of Mission from September 2013 until December 2014. An Estonian diplomat, Mr. Klaar previously held the posts of Head of Division for Central Asia and Head of Division for Human Resources Policy and Coordination, both in the European External Action Service. Currently, he is the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia.

Ambassador Kęstutis Jankauskas served in EUMM Georgia as the fourth Head of Mission from December 2014 until August 2017. Ambassador Jankauskas is a Lithuanian career diplomat and worked previously as Chancellor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, State Secretary of the MFA, Ambassador to the Political and Security Committee of the EU Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the European Union, Director of the Security Policy Department in United States of America, MFA and held other high-ranking posts. Currently he serves as Ambassador of the European Union Delegation in Azerbaijan.



The present Head of EUMM is **Mr. Erik Høeg**. A Danish diplomat, Mr. Høeg was appointed as Head of Mission on 19 December 2017. Prior to this, Mr. Høeg served as Deputy Head of EUMM Georgia, since April 2015 and Acting Head of Mission since 1 September 2017. Before joining the EUMM, Mr. Høeg worked for 16 years in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark both with bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. During his diplomatic career, he held management positions in Copenhagen and at missions abroad, including in New York and Moscow.

June 2009

Death of a Georgian citizen driving an ambulance in support of an EUMM patrol

From day one the safety and security of Mission employees and staff supporting our work has been a priority. The Mission prepares its staff through training, providing proper protection equipment and constant updates on the security situation. Even with such precautions, the work is not without risk. During the many years in Georgia the Mission, on several occasions, has faced direct threats to EUMM patrols. On one tragic occasion in 2009, the consequences were fatal.

On the 10th year of deployment in Georgia, the Mission remembers the tragic death of Mr. Avtandil Akhaladze, a Georgian citizen who was killed in an explosion on the morning of the 21 June 2009. Mr. Akhaladze was driving an ambulance of 'MediClub Georgia' in support of an EUMM patrol near the village of Eristskali, close to the Administrative Boundary with Abkhazia.



"I would like to send my sympathy to the family and friends of the MediClub driver who died today. The EUMM has an agreed mandate to carry out unhindered patrols adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Line. We are still looking into the details of this incident, but I would like to make it clear that any unprovoked attacks on our unarmed monitors and their patrols, going about their legitimate duties, are completely unacceptable." - Former Head of EUMM Georgia, Ambassador Hansjörg Haber, 21 June 2009

" I strongly condemn the attack against a patrol of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia near the Abkhazian administrative boundary, in which the driver of an accompanying medical vehicle was killed. I want to extend my most sincere condolences to the family and relatives of Avtandil Akhaladze.

EUMM is an unarmed Mission that aims at improving the lives of the people in the region. Any attacks on our unarmed monitors and their patrols are completely unacceptable. I remind all the parties of their responsibilities to ensure stability and security in the territories under their physical control." - Former EU High Representative for the CFSP in, Javier Solana, 23 June 2009



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 23 June 2009
S168/09

**Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
condemns the attack against an EUMM patrol
near the Abkhazian administrative boundary line**

For more information about the EUMM activities ... Check our previous bulletins

The EUMM Monitor

A Bulletin from the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia

Issue #1 - July 2016

Our monitors are...
The face of the Mission

As the name suggests, the Mission is a monitoring mission. Monitoring on the ground is the Mission's most visible activity. Day and night, the Mission observes, gathers, analyses and objectively reports information on conflict-related issues, incidents and developments in Georgia.

EUMM is unique among missions operating under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), in that we are not a so-called executive mission; that is, we do not provide advice, monitoring or training to the host nation or its security forces. We simply monitor and report on the situation in Georgia to allow the Member States of the EU to develop policy in relation to Georgia.

We are an unarmed civilian monitoring mission, deployed to Georgia in September 2008 following the EU-mediated Six Point Ceasefire Agreement which ended the August 2008 war. This Mission is currently the only EU Monitoring Mission worldwide.

Our monitors are the face of the Mission. Through their presence and quick response, particularly in the areas adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Lines of the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhaz, the monitors contribute to the immediate day-to-day security on the ground and to long-term stability in the region.

Important objective monitoring The Mission is impartial and objective. Our monitors are mandated to cover the whole territory of Georgia, within the security and international boundaries of the state, but not to go further than the international borders, but to be able to visit in specific cases, the de facto authorities in South Ossetia and Abkhaz, but to not grant the Mission access to the territories under their control.

This prohibits the EUMM from carrying out its mission in these territories and ensuring compliance



Our Human Security Patrols monitor human security events such as freedom of movement, the right to assembly, internally displaced persons' rights, and other civil liberties across sectors.

By the Russian Federation, South Ossetia and Abkhaz with the Six Point Agreement. This includes our monitors conducting their patrols in the "Triple Administrative Territory". From here they observe changes affecting stability such as freedom of movement, repositioning of troops, and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including the boundary regime. The aim is to ensure that the situation remains stable and secure in the region.

Keeping EU Member States informed The Mission monitors the progress of implementation along the Administrative Boundary Lines. The purpose is to facilitate implementation of a safe and normal life for the communities living on both sides of the Administrative Boundary Lines. Finally, the monitors - in many cases only by their presence - contribute to the reduction of tensions by facilitating contact between the parties, liaison and other confidence building measures.

The EUMM Monitor • 1 • Issue #1, July 2016

The EUMM Monitor – Issue #1 – July 2016 Tells about the EUMM Monitors



The EUMM Monitor

A Bulletin from the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia

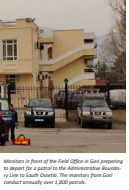
Issue #1 - April 2017

Field Office Gori... In the heart of Georgia

The European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) operates three Field Offices located across Georgia. The Field Offices deliver the operational capacity of the Mission. From here, the Mission's monitors conduct their patrols and cooperate with local partners and interlocutors.

Field Office Gori is located in Central Georgia - in the very heart of Georgia - 80 kilometers northwest of the capital Tbilisi in the town of Gori, the country's sixth largest, with a population of around 77,000.

When the monitors of the newly established Mission arrived in Gori in October 2008, they moved into the current Field Office facilities in central Gori. The buildings, which previously served as bank and restaurant, were undamaged by war and were instantly found suitable to accommodate the EUMM Field Office.



Monitors in front of the Field Office in Gori prepared to depart for a patrol in the Administrative Boundary Line in South Ossetia. The mission from Gori departs annually over 2,000 patrols.

Active in outreach and social life Field Office Gori is exceptionally active in its outreach activities towards the residents of Gori and the conflict-affected population living along the Administrative Boundary Line. The activities include school visits and presentations on the EU and the Mission's mandate, as well as sports events and tournaments. Furthermore, the Mission's outreach activities include social gatherings such as salsa dancing, basketball, football and card games. Farewells for departing mission members as well as birthdays, and event name days, are regularly celebrated by all staff.

Despite its lesser size, the Field Office in Gori has attained the highest number of mission members with 61 international, 22 national and 10 Georgian staff members in the Field Office. This correlation reflects predominantly the nature and intensity of this task and incidents within the particular Area of Responsibility. The monitors in Gori Field Office conduct annually over 1,800 patrols.

The EUMM Monitor • 1 • Issue #1, April 2017

The EUMM Monitor Issue #4 April 2017 Tells about Central Georgia and the EUMM Field Office in Gori



The EUMM Monitor

A Bulletin from the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia

Issue #1 - August 2016

They say... This is the real Field Office

The EUMM has three fully staffed Field Offices in Georgia. These are the bases from where operations are conducted and where cooperation with partners and interlocutors is coordinated.

In Eastern Georgia Mtskheta and Gori Field Office cover the activities inland and along the Administrative Boundary Line with South Ossetia. In the western corner of the country, Field Office Zugdidi covers the line and most of the entire Western Georgia. This is the real field office, not only because of its remote location to the capital, a road to the capital Tbilisi easily takes 5 hours.

Like a great big family The combination of these elements makes working in Western Georgia slightly more challenging, but on the other hand, it brings the Field Office staff more closely together. The Field Office staff lives in a small settlement, the village of Zugdidi, which is close to family-like. In all weather conditions, colleagues get together from early morning until late evening, and they often camp together during overnight patrols. They play volleyball together, watch football together, travel

The EUMM Monitor • 1 • Issue #2, August 2016

The EUMM Monitor – Issue #2 – August 2016 Tells about Western Georgia and the EUMM Field Office in Zugdidi



The EUMM Monitor

A Bulletin from the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia

Issue #1 - November 2017

Field Office Mtskheta... Covering the whole of Eastern Georgia

The Field Office in Mtskheta is one of the Mission's three Field Offices. From here, the Mission's monitors conduct their patrols and cooperate with local partners and interlocutors.

In terms of personnel strength, Field Office Mtskheta is the smallest, but it has the largest Area of Responsibility covering Eastern Georgia. The eastern half of Georgia consists of six Regions and the Capital Tbilisi, covering approximately 50% of the country's surface and 65% of its population. Borders to Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan in the south and Russia in the north. Large areas are covered by mountains, both in the north and in the central part with forest valleys in-between, the largest one being Aghstsa Valley in Kakheti. In the south-west is Abkhaz, which runs from Turkey and Abkhazeti in the south-west to Mtskheta and

and police activities as a confidence-building measure (see page 3). Covers 50% of Georgia The eastern half of Georgia consists of six Regions and the Capital Tbilisi, covering approximately 50% of the country's surface and 65% of its population. Borders to Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan in the south and Russia in the north. Large areas are covered by mountains, both in the north and in the central part with forest valleys in-between, the largest one being Aghstsa Valley in Kakheti. In the south-west is Abkhaz, which runs from Turkey and Abkhazeti in the south-west to Mtskheta and

The EUMM Monitor • 1 • Issue #5, November 2017

The EUMM Monitor Issue #5 November 2017 Tells about Eastern Georgia and the EUMM Field Office in Mtskheta



The EUMM Monitor

A Bulletin from the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia

Issue #3 - December 2016

The EUMM Hotline is... Reducing tensions by phone

One of the fundamental tasks of the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia is to "contribute to the reduction of tensions through liaison, the facilitation of contacts between parties (of the conflict) and other confidence building measures", as stated in the 15 September 2008 decision by the Council of the European Union to establish the Mission.

The objective of the Mission is to ensure that there is no return to hostilities, and to facilitate the recognition of a safe and normal life for the local communities living on both sides of the Administrative Boundary Lines with Abkhaz and South Ossetia.



Incident prevention and management In case of emergencies, incidents or requests - typically, but not only, relating to the Administrative Boundary Line - one of the Hotline's main tasks is to facilitate communication between the parties, the Mission establishes a telephone-operated mechanism - the hotline - which allows the sides to communicate around the clock, seven days a week. The hotline facilitates communication between security actors representing the Georgian authorities, Abkhaz and South Ossetia, and the Commands of the Russian Federation Border Guards based in Abkhaz and South Ossetia. These are all referred to as Hotline Holders.

The EUMM Monitor • 1 • Issue #3, December 2016

The EUMM Monitor – Issue #3 – December 2016 Tells about the EUMM facilitated Telephone Hotline



The EUMM Monitor

A Bulletin from the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia

Issue #1 - August 2016

Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism Meetings are... Opportunities for in-person dialogue

The Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) meetings allow participants from both sides of the Administrative Boundary Line to talk to one another about security issues and other matters that affect people living along the line.

The IPRM for South Ossetia and Abkhaz was first agreed in February 2009, at the sixth meeting of the Geneva International Discussions. Over the years, the IPRM format has proved to be a very efficient tool in improving the situation on the ground and in promoting dialogue. Initially, the IPRM was held in the village of Zugdidi, but later it moved to the village of Zugdidi. The meetings are held at a spot at the very Administrative Boundary Line.



IPRM meetings were established in 2009, following an agreement reached during the Geneva International Discussions. The Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) meetings allow participants from both sides of the Administrative Boundary Line to talk to one another about security issues and other matters that affect people living along the line.

The EUMM Monitor • 1 • Issue #6, August 2018

The EUMM Monitor Issue #6 August 2018 Tells about Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism Meetings



Ten Years of Continuous Presence in Georgia ...

EUMM monitors have been working 24/7 for the last 10 years to facilitate the resumption of a safe and normal life for the local communities living along the Administrative Boundary Lines. EUMM Field Office Mtskheta monitor taking notes while on patrol, 2009.



Head of Mission, Mr. Erik Høeg briefs the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Ms. Angela Merkel on recent developments in the vicinity of the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) with South Ossetia, August 2018.

Former Head of Mission, Ambassador Andrzej Tyszkiewicz on a patrol with the Mission monitors during winter days, 2012.



... patrolling day and night

EUMM Zugdidi Field Office monitors talking with local residents while on patrol back in 2013.



EUMM patrols in its area of responsibility in early October, 2014.

EUMM has been on the ground since 2008 to ensure that there is no return to hostilities. Winter 2013.



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The European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia is the EU's only current CSDP Mission that is specifically dedicated to monitoring. The current mandate of the Mission will likely be extended until 14 December 2020.



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