



The Military Planning and Conduct Capability - MPCC

What is the Military Planning and Conduct Capability?

As part of the broader ongoing work to strengthen its security, defence and crisis management capacity, the European Union decided to establish a permanent operational **Military Planning and Conduct Capability** at the military strategic level for non-executive military missions, in line with [Council conclusions of 14 November 2016](#) on implementation of the EU [Global Strategy](#) in the area of Security and Defence. The new Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) will assume responsibility at the strategic level for the operational planning and conduct of the EU's non-executive military missions. Currently these are three EU training missions in Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia.

What exactly will the MPCC do?

The MPCC will be the **static, out-of-area command and control structure at the military strategic level**, responsible for the operational planning and conduct of non-executive missions, including the building up, launching, sustaining and recovery of European Union forces. This will allow the mission staff in the field to concentrate on the specific activities of their mission, with better support **provided from Brussels**.

Until now, the EU non-executive military missions have been commanded by Mission Commanders (MCdr) deployed on the ground, thus merging the military strategic, operational and tactical levels of command. This has created difficulties in both planning and conduct, sometimes leaving missions deployed in dangerous locations in need of more proactive support from a strategic level headquarters with access to more assets.

What will be the structure and responsibilities of MPCC?

For maximum efficiency as well as cost-effectiveness, the MPCC will be established within the EU Military Staff, which is part of the European External Action Service (EEAS). It will be working jointly and in coordinated manner with the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), bringing together civilian and military work.

The Director General of the EU Military Staff (DG EUMS) will be the *Director of the MPCC* and in that capacity will assume the function of the single commander for all non-executive military Missions, exercising command and control over the current three training Missions and other possible future non-executive military Missions. The current three Mission

Commanders will become 'Mission Force Commanders' who will act under the command of the *Director of the MPCC* and will remain responsible for exercising military command authority on the ground.

The Director of the MPCC will assume the same role, tasks and command relationships as those attributed to a military Operation Commander (OpCdr). He will also exercise the responsibilities related to deployment and recovery of the missions as well as overall budgeting, auditing and reporting.

The MPCC will work closely with its existing civilian counterpart, the CPCC, through a *Joint Support Coordination Cell (JSCC)*, in order to ensure maximum coordination of civilian and military synergies and sharing of expertise. This Cell will bring together civilian and military expertise at strategic level in key mission support areas, further strengthening civilian-military coordination and cooperation in the operation planning and conduct of CSDP missions, as well as ensuring coherence on the ground.

The MPCC will be reporting to the Political and Security Committee (PSC), and informing the EU Military Committee.

Photo:
A first FACA battalion formed by
EUTM RCA



The MPCC will be composed initially of up to 25 staff but will also benefit from the support of other departments of the EUMS. Certain support functions from the mission headquarters currently deployed could also potentially be centralised, providing the remaining necessary personnel required creating the new planning and conduct capability.

The establishment of the MPCC and the JSCC should be reviewed by the Council one year after becoming operational, but no later than by the end of 2018, based on a report by the High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini.

For more info on three EU Training Missions please see:

[EUTM Somalia](#) was launched in 2010 and ever since it has contributed to strengthening the Transitional Federal Government and the institutions of Somalia.

[EUTM Mali](#) was launched in 2013 to support the rebuilding of the Malian armed forces and to meet their operational needs.

[EUTM RCA](#) was launched in 2016 and it supports the Central African Republic government in the implementation of security sector reform in the country.