

Background Information on the - European Gendarmerie Force

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| Purpose | The main objective of the European Gendarmerie Force is to be able to deploy up to 800 gendarmerie officers within a timeframe of 30 days for an international mission. This number shall be increased to up to 2000 officers in a longer perspective. |
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| Background | The purpose of the EGF is to support the EU's ambition to obtain capacities in the field of non-military crisis management. The EU's goal is to be able to sustain international missions autonomously until 2008. With respect to civilian crisis management, the EU aims to coordinate Member States' capacities in the fields of law enforcement, rule of law, civil administration and civil protection. |
| Genesis | The EGF was created following a proposal by the French Defence Minister, Michelle Aillot-Marie. The proposal was first launched at an informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers in Rome in October 2003. At this time the initiative was directed to countries with paramilitary police structures. |
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| participating countries | Negotiations between <ul style="list-style-type: none">• France• Spain• Italy• The Netherlands• Portugal led to an agreement to create the EGF at a meeting in Nordwijk (NL) on 17 September 2005. |
| Structure | The EGF is a multilateral treaty between the participating States. There is no institutional link to the EU, although all participating States are EU Members. The EGF started to work at the beginning of 2005. The Headquarters are based in Vicenza (IT), where 30 permanent staff are deployed. Political control of the EGF is exerted via a High Level Inter Ministerial Committee that meets twice per year under a rotating presidency. |
| Tasks | According to the treaty establishing the EGF, it may be deployed during all three stages of an international crisis (Pacification, Stabilization, Return of power to local authorities). Possible tasks include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintenance of security and public order• Supervision and support to local police• Border and traffic control, guarding duties• Criminal investigation, prevention and disclosure of criminal acts• Protection of goods and persons against public order disturbances• Training and education of local police based on international standards |
| State of Play | Currently EGF forces have not been used to staff international missions despite a repeatedly demonstrated readiness, of especially France, to do so. While the treaty is open to participation by other EU Member States, none have shown a clear interest so far. |