



***European Gendarmerie Force  
(EGF / EUROGENDFOR)***

**1. PURPOSE AND ESTABLISHMENT:**

The European Union (EU) has developed the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) after the 1993 Maastricht Treaty (EUT-European Union Treaty). With this policy, the EU aims to act independently of NATO and the United States in international security and defense matters.

In line with this policy, a force was needed in order to ensure general orderliness and public order in the crisis regions of the world, and with the initiative of France, the EU member states (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands) The European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) was established on September 17, 2004 with a "Declaration of Intent" signed by the European Commission.

EGF is aimed to have a mobility capable of being transferred to the crisis region within 30 days with a force of 800 people for the Peacekeeping and Conservation Operation (PCO) to be carried out.

**2. MEMBERS:**

France, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Romania and Poland are full members of EGF and Turkey is an observer member while Lithuania is the associated member.

**3. MEMBERSHIP STATUES:**

There are two types of status for participation in EGF except for full membership;

**Associate Member Status:** includes EU or candidate countries with no gendarmerie force. These countries do not have voting rights in the decision-making process with participation in operations.

**Observer Status:** The candidate countries of the EU with the military status of the Gendarmerie are included. Observers should have liaison officers at the headquarters, have relatively priority in the third countries in joining operations, and participate in training activities. Observer status is the first step towards full membership.



#### **4. STRUCTURE OF ESTABLISHMENT:**

EGF is organized in three levels; “strategic and political, operational and tactical”.

##### **a. Strategic and political Level:**

The EGF has the High Committee of Ministers (CIMIN) to take high-level political and strategic decisions on EGF. In the High Committee of Ministers, each EGF member country is represented by:

- (1)** Senior representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
- (2)** High-level representative of the Minister of Defense or the Minister of the Interior
- (3)** General Commander or General Director of the relevant gendarmerie force.

The CIMIN Term Presidency of EGF is being alternated between full member states for a period of one year. The Term Presidency of the year 2017 is carried out by Spain.

##### **b. Operational Level:**

EGF has a multinational, modular and plannable headquarter. The permanent headquarters, which can be strengthened in need, is governed by the EGF Commander. EGF Permanent Headquarters is as followed; Commander, Assistant of Commander, Chief of Staff

and consist of three branches as; Head of Operations, Plan and Principles and Logistics. The functions of the Commander and Headquarters Officers are carried out alternately between the member countries. Commander and Presidents serve for two years and the other staff for three years. The EGF Permanent Headquarters prepares operational plans and contributes to the strategic decision process, if required. The Permanent Headquarters has been in Vicenza, Italy since 23 January 2006. EGF Command, currently the Director General of the French National Gendarmerie Brigadier General Philippe RIO, and after June 2017, will be taken over by the General Inspector of the Gendarmerie of Romania, Col. Lucian GAVRILA.

**c. Tactical Level:**

EGF is not considered a permanent force. However, based on a specific purpose, a force can be created and deployed, if necessary, by mobilizing a maximum of 800 gendarmes within 30 days, including a deployed Headquarters in the area.

EGF troops participating in the operation are working under a civil or military authority order to perform their duties. At the tactical level, the Operation Regiment, the Expert Personnel Division and the Logistics Support Division are formed according to the operational needs.

**5. Membership Process of Gendarmerie General Command:**

G.G.C. applied to be an observer member in 31 March 2006, via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the meeting of the High Commission of Ministers (CIMIN) in Paris / France on 13 May 2009, G.G.C. was admitted to the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) as an observer member.



*CIMIN Meeting  
Paris*

The internal legal process for the Gendarmerie General Command to be an observer member of the EGF was completed with the approval of the Ministerial board decision dated 13 May 2010 by President of the Republic of Turkey on May 27, 2010.



*CIMIN Meeting  
December 2016, Roma*

## **6. ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY EGF:**

### **a. EU ALTHEA (Bosnia Herzegovina) Operation:**

EGF participated in the ALTHEA Operation in Bosnia Herzegovina held by the EU from 21 December 2004 to 20 October 2010 with the Integral Police Unit (IPU). Within the scope of the operation G.G.C. contributed to the Integrated Law Enforcement Force from 21 December 2004 to 2 November 2012 with (1) Gendarmerie Public Order Division (50 personnel).

### **b. UN Haiti Stability Mission (MINUSTAH) Operation:**

EGF has contributed to the Stabilization Operation, which was initiated by the UN in order to restore stability after the earthquake in Haiti, from 08 February to 03 December 2010. 300 EGF staff members (*France with a unit of 147 personnel, Italy with a unit of 130 personnel and Spain with a special team of 23 personnel*) served in the region.

### **c. Afghanistan NATO International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF)/ NATO Stable Support Mission (NATO-RSM) Operation:**

EGF has started to make contribution to the operation of NATO-operated Afghanistan International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) within the context of Afghanistan NATO Training Mission (NTM-A) since 8 December 2009. EGF activities are directed at the training of the Afghan National Police, which continues with a force of (52) personnel within the NATO Stable Support Mission.

G.G.C is currently contributing to NATO's Stable Support Mission with a force of (20) members of the (4) Police Advisory Team under the EGF framework.

**ç. EUCAP Sahel Mali Mission:**

The EUCAP Sahel Mali Mission is a civilian mission that began on 15 April 2014 with a decision of the Council of Europe with the aim of supporting the fight against terrorism and increasing organized crime and terrorist activity in Mali. The EGF provides contributions to the operation in total (17) personnel (twelve French, two Spanish and two Italian and one Romanian).

The EGF coordinator of the operation is run by Col. John VENEAU.

**d. Central African Republic (EUFOR CAR) Operation:**

The mission of EUFOR RCA (Central African Republic EU Peacekeeping Force) was launched on 1 April 2014 and ended on 15 March 2015. In this operation, the EGF has been specifically commissioned to make contributions to an integrated law enforcement force of one hundred and twenty people, in order to strengthen the rule of law, to ensure compliance and to fight against impunity.

In this context, a total of 101 staff was contributed. Under the EGF framework, the Mission has been replaced by the UN-sponsored Peacekeeping Operations (MINUSCA - Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission), with France (fifty six), Spain (twenty three), Poland (twenty one) and Lithuania. Currently, two staff members (France) are working as coordinators representing EGF.