MULTILATERAL PEACE OPERATIONS: EUROPE, 2008

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In 2008 there were 19 multilateral peace operations active in Europe. This number was matched by only one other region, Africa (see table 1). However, while around 42 per cent of all the personnel deployed worldwide were in Africa, Europe accounted for only 14 per cent. This was largely due to a preponderance of small operations there: eight operations in Europe deployed fewer than 100 international personnel in 2008.[1]

The biggest influence on the pattern of peacekeeping deployments in Europe is the legacy of the political upheavals of the 1990s. In 2008, nine operations were active on the territory of the former Yugoslavia (mainly Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo) and another eight in the former Soviet Union (including five in Georgia). Around 96 per cent of the international peacekeeping personnel in Europe were deployed in these locations. Only one operation, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), was in response to an older conflict.

Two operations were launched in Europe in 2008: the European Union (EU) Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo) and the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia. EULEX Kosovo has a mandate to monitor, mentor and advise Kosovan institutions in the area of the rule of law and has limited executive powers. EUMM is tasked with monitoring stabilization and normalization, including the return of displaced persons, in the wake of the August 2008 outbreak of conflict in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and to support confidence building between the parties. Two operations terminated during the year: the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Peacekeeping Forces in Georgia (in Abkhazia) and the CIS Joint Peacekeeping Forces (in South Ossetia).

Table 1. Global distribution of peace operations and personnel deployments, 2008

Region	Operations	Personnel
Africa	19	78 975
Americas	2	9 621
Asia	10	55 542
Europe	19	26 797
Middle East	10	16 651
World	**60**	**187 586**

[1] All cited personnel numbers are estimates of international personnel located in theatre as of 31 Dec. 2008. If an operation closed before that date, its final force size is used. The personnel of follow-on missions are not counted twice. Numbers of local staff and UN volunteers can be found in the SIPRI Multilateral Peace Operations Database.

QUICK FACTS

● Europe accounted for almost a third of all multilateral peace operations in 2008, but for only 14 % of the personnel deployed.

● All but two operations were linked to conflicts linked to the break-up of the Soviet Union or Yugoslavia.

● Europe was the only region in 2008 where more operations were conducted by regional organizations than by the UN.

● The EU is the only organization to have launched a new peace operation in Europe since 2003.

● The number of NATO peacekeeping troops in Europe was cut by 80 per cent between 1999 and 2008. NATO remains the biggest deployer of peacekeepers in the region.

● The USA was the fourth largest contributor of uniformed personnel (troops, police and military observers) to operations in Europe in 2008. The other main contributors were European countries.

● Two operations were launched in 2008: the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo) and the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia.

● Two operations terminated in 2008: the CIS Peacekeeping Forces in Georgia (Abkhazia) and the CIS Joint Peacekeeping Forces (in South Ossetia)

PERSONNEL DEPLOYED

Troops: 22 585
Observers: 480
Civilian police: 2334
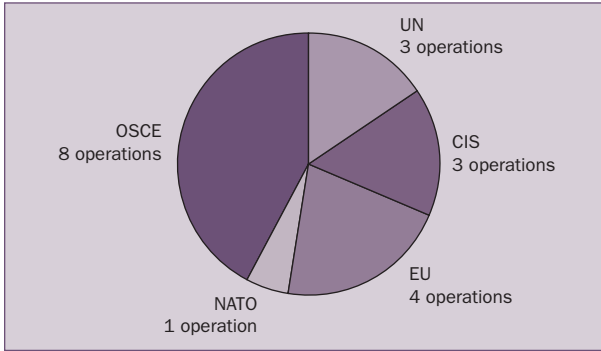**Civilian staff: 1398**

Figure 1. Number of peace operations in Europe, by conducting organization, 2008
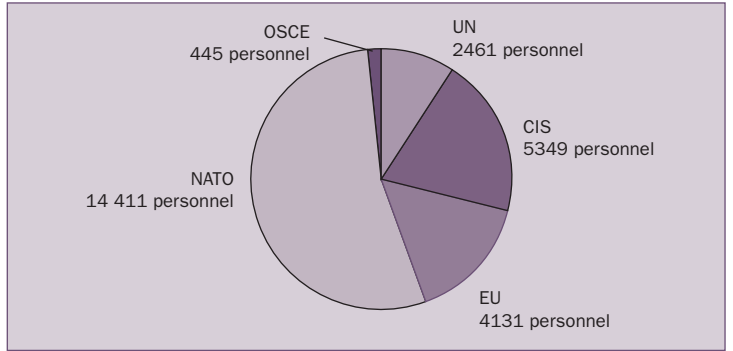

Figure 2. Number of personnel deployed to peace operations in Europe, by conducting organization, 2008

CONDUCTING ORGANIZATIONS

Peace operations in Europe are overwhelmingly conducted by regional organizations (see figure 1). The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) conducted the most operations in the region in 2008, although its eight all-civilian operations accounted for only 2 per cent of the personnel deployed (see figure 2). The EU conducted four operations. The CIS and the UN conducted three operations each, although two of the CIS operations had closed by the end of the year. The Kosovo Force (KFOR), the only North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) operation in Europe, accounted for 54 per cent of all personnel deployments. The launch of EULEX Kosovo and the EUMM increased the EU's total personnel deployments in Europe by 63 per cent—and its civilian personnel deployments by around 700 per cent— over 2007 levels.
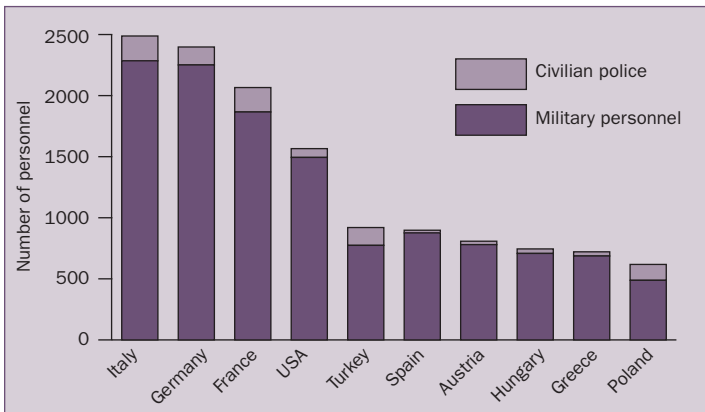

Figure 3. Top 10 contributors of uniformed personnel to peace operations in Europe, end 2008

Figure 4. Origin of uniformed personnel deployed to peace operations in Europe, by region, end 2008

CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES

As of 31 December 2008, 70 countries sent uniformed personnel to 17 peace operations in Europe.[2] The top 10 contributors (see figure 3) sent nearly all their personnel—97 per cent—to non-UN operations. The great majority of uniformed personnel deployed came from Europe (see figure 4).

[2] 'Uniformed personnel' includes troop, military observers and civilian police. SIPRI was unable to collect data on the non-uniformed civilian staff of all operations in 2008.

TEN-YEAR TRENDS

The annual number of operations conducted in Europe fell from 28 to 19 between 1999 and 2008. Personnel deployments fell by almost 70 per cent over this period—from 84 546 to 26 797—due mainly to major withdrawals of peacekeeping troops from parts of the former Yugoslavia. The NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR) was gradually drawn down from 33 000 troops in 1999 to around 7000 at its closure in 2004. KFOR was launched in 1999 with around 42 500 troops, but by 2008 it had only 14 411 troops. Civilian deployments in Europe also decreased, from a peak of 11 000 in 2000 to 3700 in 2008. The UN and the OSCE reduced their civilian deployments in Europe by 82 and 85 per cent, respectively, in the period.
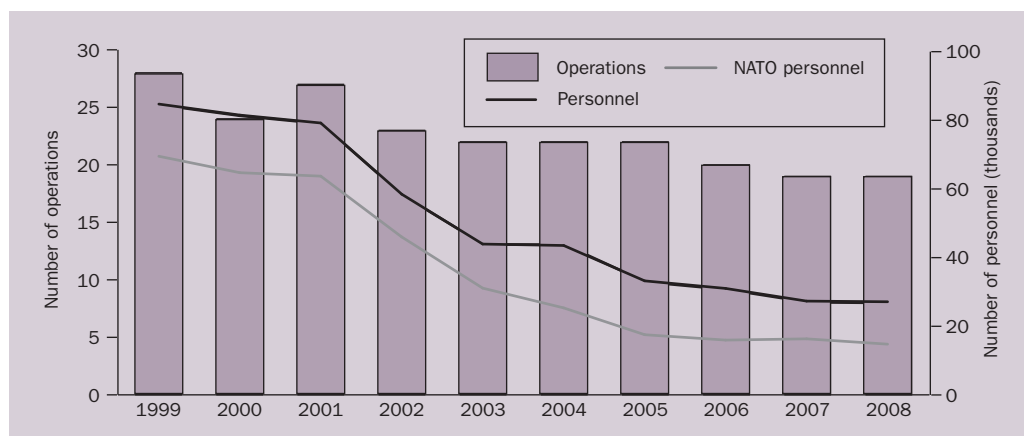

Figure 5. Number of operations and total personnel deployments in Europe, 1999–2008, showing NATO personnel deployments in Europe

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2008

Kosovo's declaration of independence in February 2008 led to a significant realignment of peace operations in the territory and to confusion over the legal status of some of them. EULEX Kosovo was launched in February 2008 after a long and troubled planning process, but only reached operational capacity in December. It is the largest civilian operation mounted under the European Security and Defence Policy to date. The UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) lost most executive powers and took on the role of monitoring and supporting local institutions from the middle of 2008, although its mandate was not officially changed by a Security Council resolution. Its personnel strength was halved. The EU 'reconstruction and economic development' pillar of UNMIK terminated in June, but the OSCE's 'democratization and institution building' pillar was maintained.

  Georgia terminated two CIS operations on its territory in 2008. The closures followed the five-day conflict in August 2008 between the Georgian Government and South Ossetian and Abkhazian separatists supported by Russia. Both operations included significant contingents of Russian troops. The Joint Peacekeeping Forces operation in South Ossetia was terminated in August after Georgia withdrew its consent for the operation, while the CIS Peacekeeping Forces in Georgia operation in Abkhazia was terminated, at Georgia's request, by a decision of the CIS in October. After recognizing Abkhazian and South Ossetian independence, Russia vetoed the extension of the OSCE Mission in Georgia, demanding a separate mandate for the operation's office in South Ossetia. The status of the operation remains unresolved at the time of writing. The EU planned and launched the EUMM within two months of the end of the conflict.
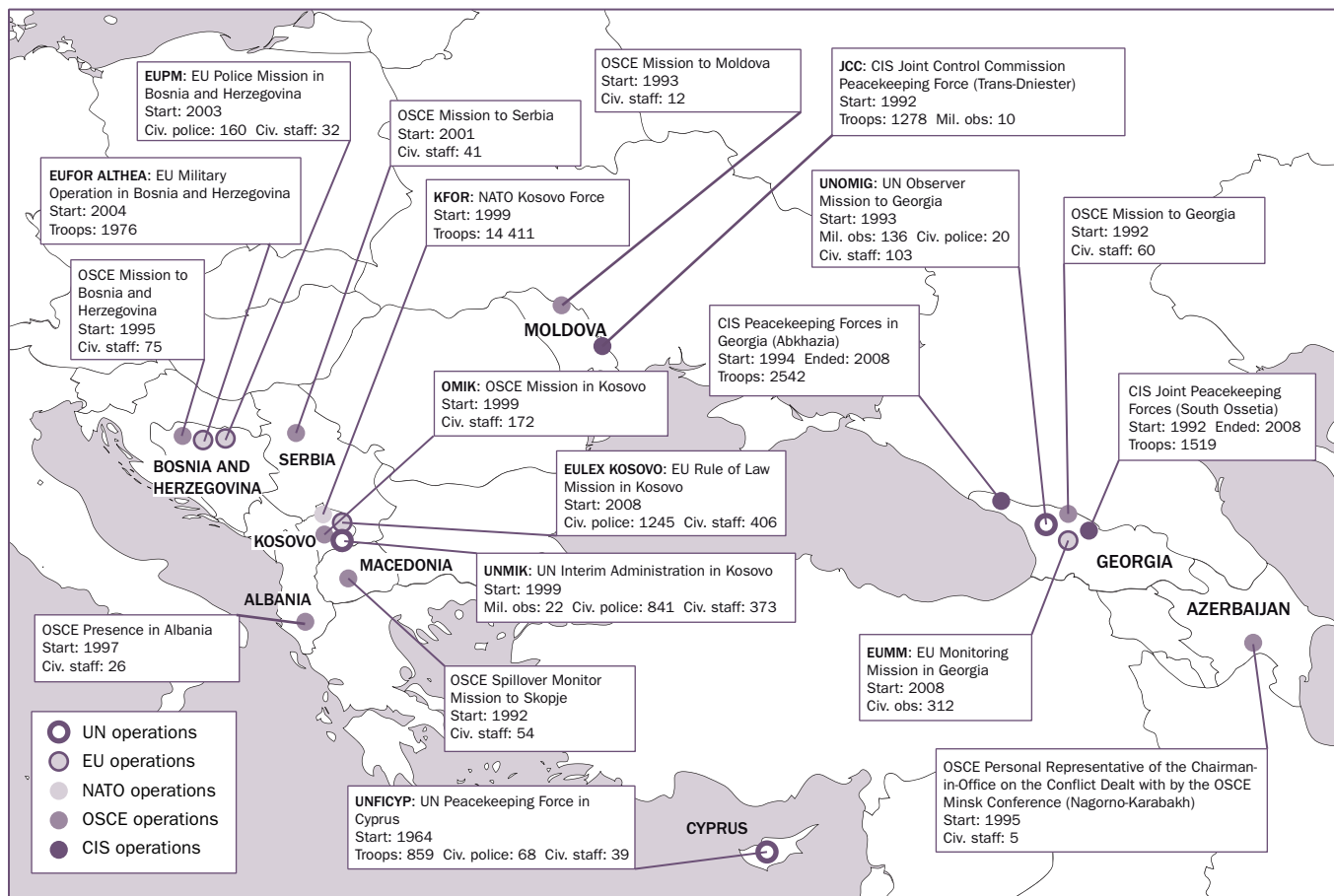
Figure 6. Map of multilateral peace operations in Europe, 2008

Troops = international troops; Mil. obs = international military observers; Civ. obs = international civilian observers; Civ. police = international civilian police; Civ. staff = other international civilian staff.

Note: The markers do not indicate the precise locations of deployments or mission headquarters.

Map labels:

EUPM: EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Start: 2003
Civ. police: 160 Civ. staff: 32

OSCE Mission to Serbia
Start: 2001
Civ. staff: 41

OSCE Mission to Moldova
Start: 1993
Civ. staff: 12

JCC: CIS Joint Control Commission Peacekeeping Force (Trans-Dniester)
Start: 1992
Troops: 1278 Mil. obs: 10

EUFOR ALTHEA: EU Military Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Start: 2004
Troops: 1976

KFOR: NATO Kosovo Force
Start: 1999
Troops: 14 411

UNOMIG: UN Observer Mission to Georgia
Start: 1993
Mil. obs: 136 Civ. police: 20
Civ. staff: 103

OSCE Mission to Georgia
Start: 1992
Civ. staff: 60

OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
Start: 1995
Civ. staff: 75

CIS Peacekeeping Forces in Georgia (Abkhazia)
Start: 1994 Ended: 2008
Troops: 2542

CIS Joint Peacekeeping Forces (South Ossetia)
Start: 1992 Ended: 2008
Troops: 1519

OMIK: OSCE Mission in Kosovo
Start: 1999
Civ. staff: 172

EULEX KOSOVO: EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
Start: 2008
Civ. police: 1245 Civ. staff: 406

UNMIK: UN Interim Administration in Kosovo
Start: 1999
Mil. obs: 22 Civ. police: 841 Civ. staff: 373

OSCE Presence in Albania
Start: 1997
Civ. staff: 26

OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje
Start: 1992
Civ. staff: 54

EUMM: EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia
Start: 2008
Civ. obs: 312

UNFICYP: UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
Start: 1964
Troops: 859 Civ. police: 68 Civ. staff: 39

OSCE Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference (Nagorno-Karabakh)
Start: 1995
Civ. staff: 5

Legend:
○ UN operations
○ EU operations
○ NATO operations
● OSCE operations
● CIS operations

Country labels: MOLDOVA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, SERBIA, KOSOVO, MACEDONIA, ALBANIA, GEORGIA, AZERBAIJAN, CYPRUS

THE SIPRI MULTILATERAL PEACE OPERATIONS DATABASE

The data included in this fact sheet is taken from the SIPRI Multilateral Peace Operations Database. The database include historical data on all multilateral peace operations active since 2000. Data on operations includes, among others, international and local personnel numbers, budgets, lead countries and mission heads, fatalities, countries contributing different types of personnel, and mandates. The database can be accessed online at <http://www.sipri.org/databases/pko>.