



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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PRESSE 154

EUBAM Rafah mission extended

The Council has adopted a decision extending the European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point between Egypt and Gaza, until 31 December 2011.

The decision was adopted by written procedure (doc. 3018/11)

Background

The EUBAM Rafah mission was launched in 2005 to provide a third-party presence at the Rafah Crossing Point in order to contribute to the opening of the crossing point and to build confidence between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, in cooperation with the European Union's institution-building efforts.

Despite the closure of the Rafah Crossing Point following the Hamas take-over of the Gaza Strip in 2007, EUBAM has maintained full operational capability, ready to redeploy at short notice, should circumstances allow.

Link to factsheet on EUBAM Rafah

<http://consilium.europa.eu/showPage.aspx?id=979&lang=EN>