

MULTILATERAL PEACE OPERATIONS: EUROPE, 2009

KIRSTEN SODER

In 2009, 17 multilateral peace operations were active in Europe, making it the region with the highest number of peace operations (see table 1). Although the number of peacekeepers deployed to Europe fell by 26 per cent—to drop below 20 000 for the first time since 1991—Europe remained the region with the third highest number of personnel deployed to peace operations.

Three of the five conducting organizations—the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the United Nations—significantly reduced their deployment levels between 2008 and 2009. Following the termination of two missions to Georgia in 2008, the CIS deployment level decreased by 76 per cent; NATO, which continued the downsizing of its Kosovo Force (KFOR), recorded a 12 per cent decline; and the number of personnel deployed to UN missions dropped by 45 per cent, primarily due to the withdrawal of personnel from the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), to reach the lowest level since the UN first deployed a peace operation to the region, in 1964. For the first time since 1990, Europe was the region with the lowest number of UN personnel deployed.

Operations took place in nine locations in Europe in 2009: Kosovo (4 operations), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3 operations), Georgia (3 operations), Moldova (2 operations), Albania (1 operation), Azerbaijan (1 operation), Cyprus (1 operation), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1 operation) and Serbia (1 operation). The nine operations in the territories of the former Yugoslavia accounted for 85 per cent of the personnel deployed to Europe in 2009. Two operations terminated during 2009: the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Georgia.

Table 1. Peace operations and personnel deployments, by region, 2009

Region	No. of operations	No. of personnel
Africa	16	85 562
Americas	2	9 571
Asia	9	88 270
Europe	17	19 750
Middle East	10	16 125
World	54	219 278

Notes: All personnel numbers are estimates of international personnel located in theatre as of 31 Dec. 2009. If an operation closed before that date, its final force size is used.

KFOR deployment numbers are as of Oct. 2009, when information on the national breakdown was available. At the end of 2009, c. 11 500 troops were on the ground.

KEY FACTS

- In 2009, 17 multilateral peace operations were conducted in Europe, more than in any other region.
- Europe was the only region where the number of peacekeepers significantly decreased in 2009: numbers fell by 26 per cent, continuing a reduction since 1999.
- Despite the fall in personnel, Europe still ranked third in terms of deployment figures.
- Europe continued to be the only region where regional organizations conducted more operations than the UN.
- NATO remained the biggest deployer of peacekeepers to the region, followed by the EU. NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR)—the only operation deploying more than 5000 personnel—was the largest operation in Europe.
- The number of UN personnel dropped by 45 per cent in 2009 to an all-time low.
- Over 85 per cent of the peacekeepers in Europe in 2009 were deployed to territories of the former Yugoslavia.
- The USA was the third largest contributor of uniformed personnel to operations in Europe in 2009. The other main contributors were European countries.

PERSONNEL DEPLOYED IN EUROPE

Troops: 16 819
 Observers: 330
 Civilian police: 1294
 Civilian staff: 1307

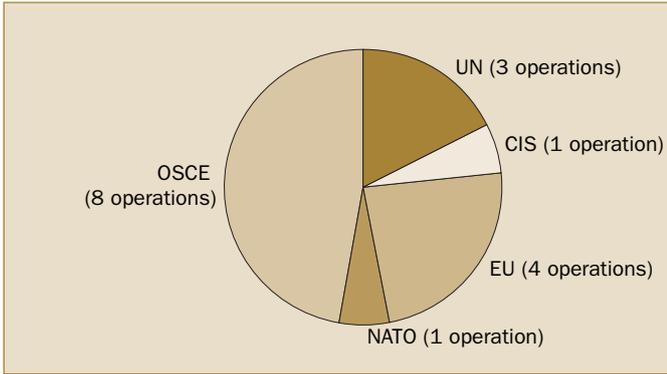


Figure 1. Number of peace operations in Europe, by conducting organization, 2009

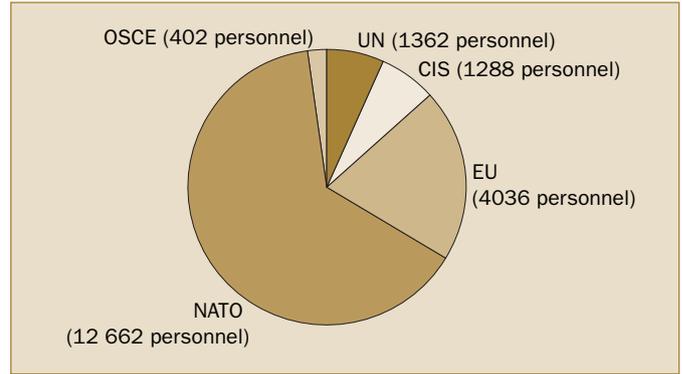


Figure 2. Number of personnel deployed to peace operations in Europe, by conducting organization, 2009

CONDUCTING ORGANIZATIONS

Peace operations in Europe are overwhelmingly conducted by regional organizations (see figure 1). Although the OSCE carried out most operations in the region in 2009, its eight operations accounted for only 2 per cent of the personnel deployed (see figure 2). The EU’s four missions in Europe included the largest civilian EU operation to date: EULEX Kosovo with 1567 personnel. The CIS’s single mission, the Joint Control Commission (JCC) Peacekeeping Force in Moldova, was responsible for 7 per cent of the peacekeepers stationed in Europe. Despite downsizing in 2009, NATO’s KFOR still accounted for 64 per cent of all personnel deployed in Europe. The UN conducted three missions in 2009, including one that closed during the year. UN deployments accounted for 7 per cent of personnel in Europe.

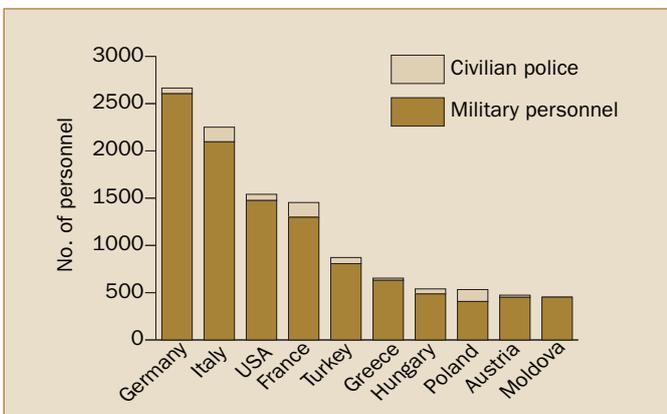


Figure 3. Top 10 contributors of uniformed personnel to peace operations in Europe, end 2009

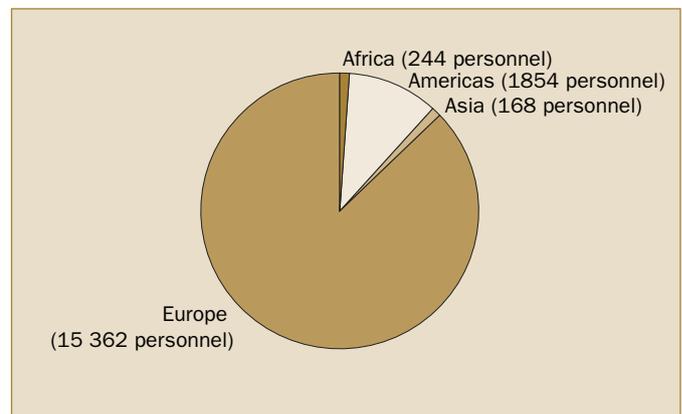


Figure 4. Region of origin of uniformed personnel deployed to peace operations in Europe, end 2009

CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES

As of December 2009, 53 countries sent uniformed personnel (i.e. troops, military observers and civilian police) to 15 ongoing peace operations in Europe. The top 10 contributors (see figure 3) deployed less than 1 per cent of their personnel to UN operations. The great majority of uniformed personnel—87 per cent—came from Europe (see figure 4). Australia accounted for 93 per cent of the personnel from Asia (including Oceania), while 91 per cent of African personnel came from Morocco.



TEN-YEAR TRENDS

The downward trend in the number of peace operations and the number of personnel deployed continued in 2009. Between 2000 and 2009 the number of operations fell from 24 to 17 and the deployment level decreased from 81 329 to 19 750 (see figure 5). Over the decade the constant decrease in deployment figures was largely due to the drawdown of personnel from the peace operation hub in the territories of the former Yugoslavia: while total personnel deployed fell by 61 579 (76 per cent), the number deployed to the former Yugoslavia fell by 58 455 (78 per cent).

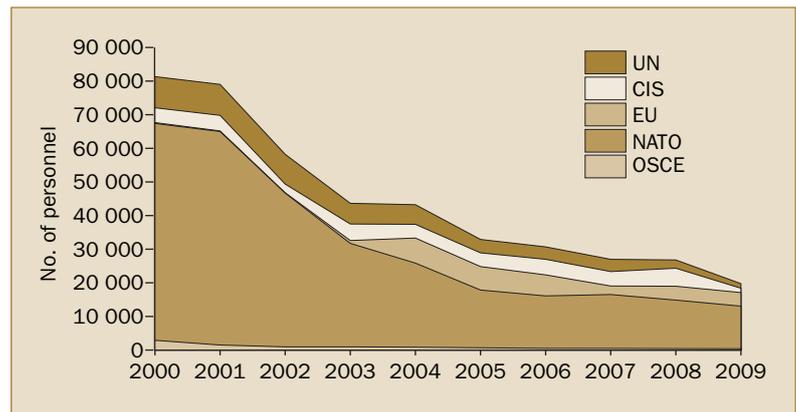


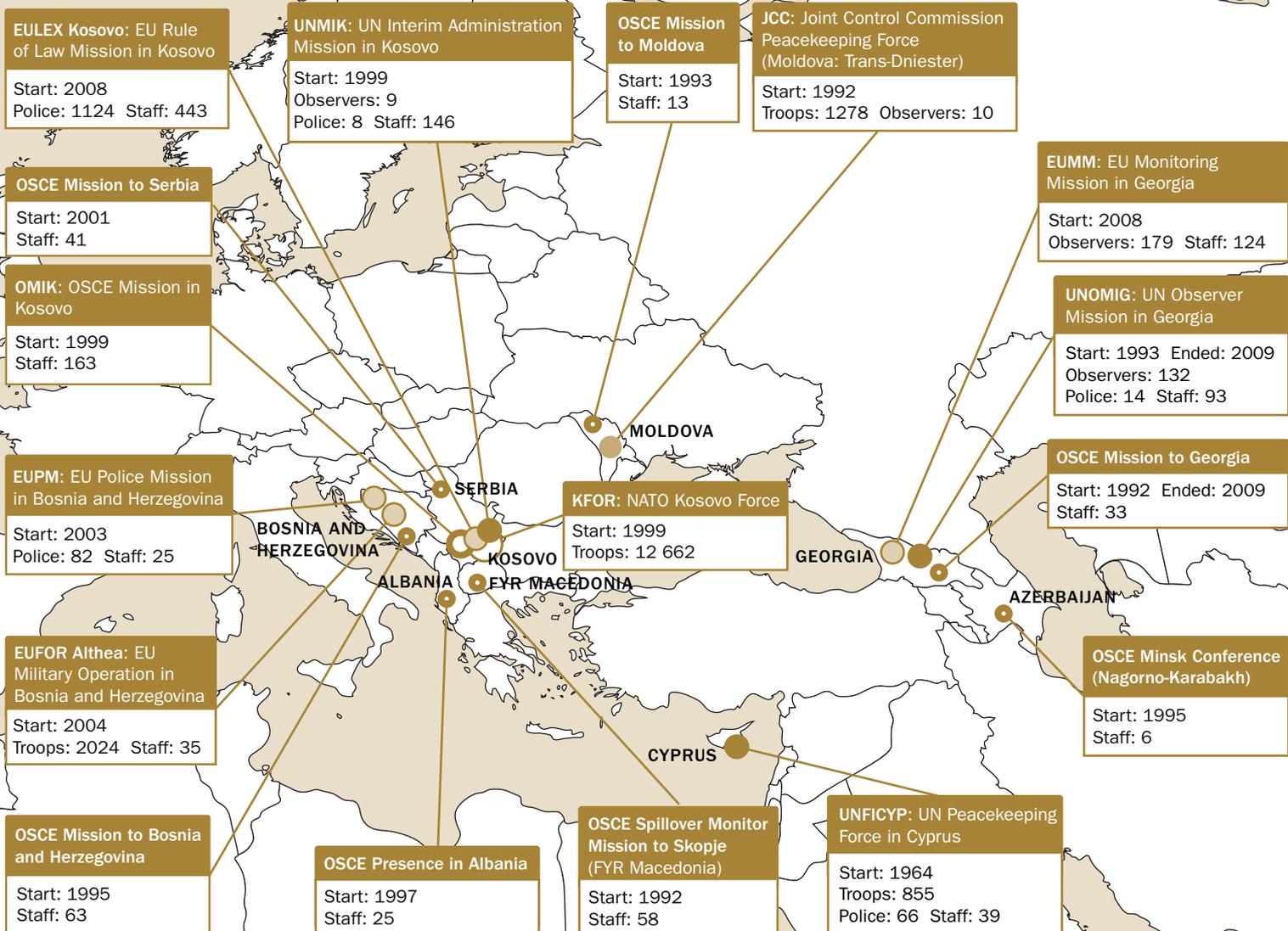
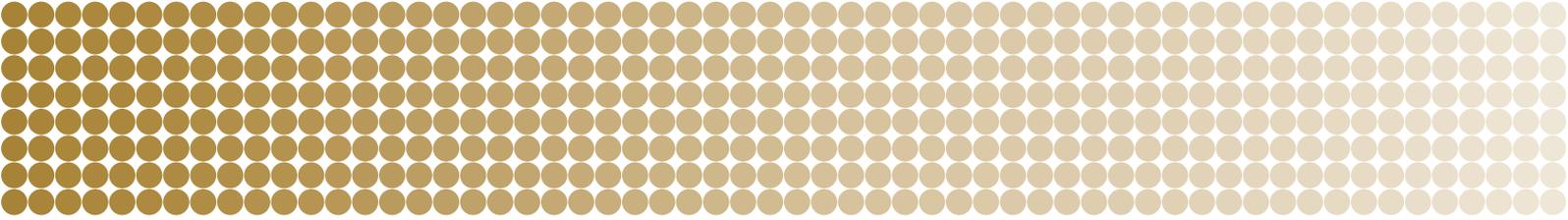
Figure 5. Number of personnel deployed to peace operations in Europe, by conducting organization, 2000–2009

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2009

The two operations that terminated during 2009—UNOMIG and the OSCE Mission to Georgia—had both been deployed to Georgia and both ended as a result of a Russian veto. Russia, which recognizes Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states, vetoed the extension of UNOMIG's mandate by the UN Security Council as the draft resolution referred to Georgia's territorial integrity. Russia had vetoed the extension of the OSCE operation in 2008, and the mandate of the unarmed military monitors deployed to the mission in August 2008 under a separate OSCE Permanent Council decision ended in June 2009. The EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM), with a strength of 303 personnel, was the only active operation in Georgia at the end of 2009.

In February 2009 peacekeepers of the CIS operation in Moldova held their first joint training exercise for more than six years. In March the members of the JCC—Moldova, Russia and Trans-Dniester—agreed to transform the operation into one under the auspices of the OSCE. However, the transformation was to become effective only once Moldova and Trans-Dniester agreed on the status of Trans-Dniester. Following the Moldovan election in September, the newly elected government called for the replacement of the current mission with an international mission of civilian observers, the withdrawal of Russian troops, and an increased role for the United States and the EU in the Five Plus Two negotiations (which also involve Moldova, Russia, Trans-Dniester, Ukraine and the OSCE). Trans-Dniester strongly objected to the suggestions, insisting on the presence of Russian forces.

Ten years after the Kosovo war and the deployment of KFOR, in June 2009 NATO defence ministers decided to reduce and restructure KFOR. The operation, whose troop strength peaked at 42 500 in 1999 and 2000, was scheduled to be downsized to around 10 000 by 2010. The restructuring of the operations was completed by the end of January 2010, when 10 713 troops were deployed. Meanwhile, in 2009 discussion continued on whether to change the mandate of the EU Military Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR Althea) to a non-executive mandate. In January 2010 the Council of the EU decided to keep the current mandate while amending it to include non-executive capacity-building and training support tasks.



● UN
● CIS
● EU
● NATO
● OSCE

○ = >5000 personnel
○ = 100–5000 personnel
○ = <100 personnel

Notes: 'Troops' include combat and non-combat troops. 'Observers' are both military and civilian observers. 'Police' are civilian police officers. 'Staff' are international civilian staff.

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, including 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>>.

Kirsten Soder (Germany) was a Researcher with the SIPRI Armed Conflict and Conflict Management Programme. She managed the SIPRI Multilateral Peace Operations Database between 2006 and 2010.

SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.



STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
 Signalistgatan 9
 SE-169 70 Solna, Sweden
 Telephone: +46 8 655 97 00
 Fax: +46 8 655 97 33
 Email: sipri@sipri.org
 Internet: www.sipri.org