

[EUAM Iraq: New head of mission appointed](#)

On 11 December 2019, Christoph Buik was appointed as **new head of mission for the European Union Advisory Mission in Iraq (EUAM Iraq)**. He will take up his duties on 1 January 2020.

Christoph Buik, a German national, is currently Director of the UN Standing Police Capacity. Previously, he was Police Commissioner for the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia. He has long experience in international peacekeeping and peace building operations.

He will take over from Markus Ritter, who has held the post since October 2017.

The decision was taken by the Political and Security Committee on 11 December 2019.

EUAM Iraq is based in Bagdad and contributes to the implementation at strategic level of a **comprehensive strategy** countering terrorism and organised crime with specific reference to border management, financial crime, money laundering and the trafficking of cultural heritage. The mission works in coordination with **key international actors** operating in Iraq, including the NATO mission in Iraq.

The mission was launched on 16 October 2017 to support the **implementation of the civilian aspects of the Iraqi National Security Programme**. This programme aims at building state institutions capable of consolidating security, peace and preventing conflicts under the rule of law, and outlines a number of threats to national security, including terrorism, corruption and political instability.