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EUPOL completes deployment

KABUL (PAN): With the deployment of the first group of police officers in the Kandahar province, the European Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) has reached full capability in the south. As of Wednesday, eight members from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other Canadian police agencies have joined EUPOL, following the signing of a Technical Agreement between the European Police Mission and the government of Canada. EUPOL said the newly-recruited officers would all be stationed in Kandahar City as part of the first EUPOL presence in the southern province, where the Canadian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) has been in operation since 2005. The European Police Mission in Afghanistan has so far operated in southern Afghanistan with nine British officers based in Helmand and three from the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee in Uruzgan. EUPOL is currently composed of 130 officers from 20 countries including non-EU members like Canada, Croatia and Norway and more than 40 international civilian experts. Since last October the mission has been headed by General Juergen Scholz.

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