PRESS RELEASE

EUFOR RCA takes control of security at Bangui Airport

As of today, EUFOR RCA has taken over responsibility from France's Operation Sangaris for the security and protection of Bangui Airport. The transfer of authority took place at noon (Bangui time), following on from Operation Commander General Philippe Pontiès's declaration that the force had reached initial operational capability.

The first Estonian troops also arrived in Bangui today, bolstering the European presence in the Central African Republic. The force will be further strengthened between now and June, so as to reach full operational capability.

Launched by the Council of the European Union on 1 April 2014, the operation comes under the scope of UN Security Council Resolution 2134 and its aim, in support of the African Union’s MISCA force, is to help restore stability and security in Bangui. It will also enable international and non-governmental organisations to consolidate their work in aid of those who are most vulnerable and allow for the continuation of EU-backed humanitarian and development projects in the Central African capital.

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