



COMMON SECURITY & DEFENCE POLICY POLITIQUE DE SECURITE & DE DEFENSE COMMUNE

We are happy to announce the relaunch of the CSDP newsletter!

The EU establishes a new Mission in the Central African Republic



While the country is experiencing the worst crisis in its history, the EU is supporting the national authorities with a new mission: the EU Military Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (EUMAM RCA)

The Central African Republic is facing the worst crisis in its history. Violence has led to the destruction of the already weak socio-economic infrastructure and has held back the efforts undertaken by the international community to restore basic services.

In order to support the Central African authorities in reforming the security sector, on 19 January

2015, EU foreign ministers approved the [Council Decision](#) which establishes EUMAM RCA. The new mission will follow the EU military operation in the CAR ([EUFOR RCA](#)), which will contribute to security in the capital Bangui until 15 March 2015. EU experts will advise on how to manage military forces as well as on the preparation of a future systemic reform of the "Forces armées centrafricaines" (FACA).

EU High Representative Federica Mogherini, said: "This new mission will play a critical role in strengthening the security sector. EUMAM will advise on the reforms necessary to make the CAR armed forces a more multi-ethnic, professional and republican army."

The mission is set to last 12 months. EUMAM's headquarters will be located in Bangui. Brigadier General Dominique Laugel from France has been appointed EU Mission Commander for a team of up to 60 staff.

A separate Council decision is required to launch EUMAM's activities.

Green light for EUCAP Sahel Mali



Terrorist groups, traffickers and a lasting conflict between Tuareg armed groups represent a threat for Europe. Therefore the new EU Mission will support the Malian authorities

The main threats to Mali's security and development lie in the difficulty that the State has in controlling its territory. This situation is exacerbated by the lingering presence of terrorist groups and traffickers and by the conflict between Tuareg armed groups. The political fragility has affected the country for decades.

This crisis could be a direct threat to the whole region and to Europe. Such hard to access desert areas in the north have become refuges for terrorist groups and cross border traffickers. Those threats makes it vital for Mali to have a well-functioning security sector. In order to tackle those challenges, on 15 April 2014, the EU proposed a new Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission: [EUCAP Sahel Mali](#). The mission received green light from foreign ministers on 19 January 2015.

EUCAP Sahel Mali will help the Malian State to ensure constitutional and democratic order, put in place the conditions for lasting peace as well as maintain its authority throughout the entire territory. The mission's main task is to advise and train the three internal security forces in Mali, i.e. the police, the "Gendarmerie" and the "Garde Nationale".

EU High Representative, Federica Mogherini, said: "The EU is a steadfast partner of Mali. The new mission reinforces the EU's comprehensive support to stability and security throughout Mali. By assisting the Malian internal security forces, EUCAP will help bring a long term solution to Mali's security challenges."

The mission is foreseen to last until 15 January 2017. Its headquarters is in the capital Bamako. A budget of €11.4 million has been allocated for the first year.

EUCAP Sahel Mali will operate together with two already existing CSDP actions in the region: [EUCAP Sahel Niger](#), which supports the fight against organised crime and terrorism in Niger and the [EU training mission in Mali](#), which contributes to the restructuring of the Malian Armed Forces through training and advice.

"The EU needs a new foreign policy and security strategy"



Extracts from Mogherini's speech at the European Parliament

On 14 January in Strasbourg, during the EP plenary session, EU High Representative Federica Mogherini participated in a debate on EU foreign, security and defence policies with the members of the Parliament (MEPs).

Ms Mogherini covered a large number of topics, from the terrorist attacks in Paris to the European Council in June, from the Balkans to the wider Neighbourhood and to the need to share more intelligence information. She also mentioned the need to revise the European Security Strategy. Encouraged by her call for the EU to be the "superpower of peace", many MEPs stressed the need for the EU to assume greater responsibilities, especially in its neighbourhood.

Opening statement

" [...] I believe that what happened last week [in Paris] has shown all EU citizens, and many outside our borders, the first lesson we have to learn, which is that you need to be more united, really united, not only in words, not only on paper, but in practice. [...]" On

"[...] There is no real border between external and internal events, and so there must be no real border between our external and internal action [...]"

"[...] Sometimes – or often – we lack long-term strategies and long-term visions. I think we need to engage seriously on that in the coming months with our partners around us [...]"

"[...] In the preparation for the June European Council, I will have the responsibility of presenting an assessment of global security, I believe that that will also be the opportunity for starting a process to have a new security strategy for the European Union [...]"

Closing statement

"[...] Therefore, Bosnia and Herzegovina and also other countries of the Western Balkans are going to be one of the key priorities, I would say the starting point. [...]"

"[...] There are ways of coordinating our common foreign and security policy without overlapping with national interests, because so much of the national interest today coincides with the European interest. [...]"

"[...] Sharing intelligence is something on which I will ask this Parliament to support me in asking Member States to do more generously; not because it is in the interests of the EU, but because it is in the interests of their own citizens to share intelligence and to invest and share on defence [...]"

Watch also:

- the [Interview with Federica Mogherini](#), (EuroparlTV - 15 January 2015)
- the [MEPs debate](#)

For further information write to presse.pscd@eeas.europa.eu or call +32 2584 6907

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