

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EU Police Mission for the DRC (EUPOL RD Congo)

Updated: February 2014

Background

The National Congolese police (PNC) faces a double challenge: on the one hand, to fulfil its traditional mission of ensuring the security of the population, on the other hand, to reform and restructure the institution. Aware of the importance of having a police service that is civilian, professional and respectful of human rights, the Congolese authorities have launched a process to reform the national police. Fully committed to the Congolese people with a view to consolidating the rule of law, security and stability in the DRC, the European Union responded favourably to the demand by Congolese authorities for expertise in the area of police reform by deploying the EU mission EUPOL RD Congo, complementing other programmes implemented by the EU Delegation in DRC and several EU member states.



Advice and assistance to the reform of the police and its justice interface.

The EUPOL RD Congo mission followed on from EUPOL Kinshasa, the EU's first civilian mission in Africa. Launched in July 2007, EUPOL RD Congo supports the efforts of national Congolese authorities to reform the national police. Its mandate has been recently extended until September 2014.

MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

Place: Democratic Republic of the Congo
Headquarters: Kinshasa
Starting date: 1 July 2007
End of mandate : 30 September 2014
Head of Mission: Commissaire Divisionnaire Jean-Paul RIKIR
Personnel: 31 international staff
Contributing States: 7 EU Member States



www.eupol-rdc.eu

Mandate and objectives

Made up of 31 international experts, the mission's members include police experts, criminal justice experts and civilian experts in the cross-cutting aspects of Security Sector Reform (SSR): human rights, dialogue with civil society, protection of children in armed conflicts, gender equality and the fight against impunity and sexual violence.

EUPOL RD Congo supports SSR in the field of the police and its interaction with the justice system. Its purpose is to contribute to the restructuring of the Congolese police by supporting the establishment of a civilian and professional police force that respects human rights and works in cooperation with civil society. The mission also aims to help improving the interaction between the police and the criminal justice system, thus contributing to the fight against the impunity of sexual violence and human rights abuses. The mission cooperates closely with the EUSEC RD Congo, the European Union delegation in DRC and the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in its efforts to help ensure that all SSR efforts deployed are consistent.

In the framework of the reform and restructuring process of the police sector in the DRC, EUPOL RD Congo assists the competent Congolese authorities, mainly through the support to three institutions:

the Police Reform Monitoring Committee (CSRП), the General Inspection of the Congolese police (IG-PNC) and the General Commissariat of the Congolese police (CG-PNC). As a joint consultative body, the CSRП brings together not only the ministries concerned by the reform, but also experts from the Congolese police, the Congolese civil society and international partners working in this field, among which EUPOL RD Congo.

This institution played a key role in drafting the documents that constitute the legal and strategic basis for the reform, such as the organic law on the organisation and functioning of the Congolese police, promulgated in August 2011.

Together with other international partners, EUPOL RD Congo provides strategic advice to the General Commissariat of the Congolese Police in conceiving a structure responsible for implementing police reform. In this context, the mission actively participated in the efforts leading up to the official launch, in January 2013, of the working group responsible for implementing reforms in the field of “Training”.

With the support and advice of EUPOL RD Congo experts, particular attention will be devoted to the creation of the General Directorate of Schools and Training within the Congolese Police as well as the construction of a national Police Academy - a crucial project for restructuring and modernising the national police training system. EUPOL RD Congo also assists the General Inspection of the Congolese Police. Created in June 2007, this inspection and audit body covers any criminal, administrative or financial offences committed by the police. It plays a key role in the accountability of the police in a state based on the rule of law.

In order to strengthen the operational capacities of the Congolese police, until the end of September 2013 EUPOL RD Congo has been contributing to the training of trainers and police officers of the PNC. Since October 2013, the mission focuses on the mentoring, monitoring and advising of the trainers and PNC police officers. The mission has provided technical assistance to three European projects (EU Delegation in DRC, France and the United Kingdom) designed to support the security of the 2011 elections in DRC. EUPOL RD Congo is also assisting the Congolese police in the implementation of the “Proximity Police” concept, together with other European and Congolese partners such as Belgium, the United Kingdom and the Congolese civil society. The mission contributes to the training of the police officers that will be integrated in the “Reference Police Station” of Kinshasa, a pilot project in this field.

By means of its justice interface, EUPOL RD Congo is seeking to improve the coordination between the police and judicial fields in the reform process, thus contributing to the fight against impunity.

The support and training provided to the Judiciary Police and to the Technical and Scientific Police in Kinshasa, North and South-Kivu provide police officers with the proper know-how to conduct criminal investigations in a professional manner. In order to contribute to the stabilisation process in Eastern DRC, particularly in the areas of human rights, gender equality and protection of children in armed conflicts, the mission also has an office in Goma, province of North-Kivu, thus responding to the training and monitoring needs identified by the national and provincial authorities.



This team also assists specialized police units responsible for fighting sexual and gender-based violence (such as the Special Police for the Protection of Children and Women, PSPE-F) and promotes awareness-raising sessions among police officers, justice and civil society experts. This work is conducted in close collaboration with other international partners such as the German bilateral cooperation (GIZ), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and MONUSCO.

*The European Union's **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The CSDP allows the Union to develop its civilian and military capacities for crisis management and conflict prevention at international level, thus helping to maintain peace and international security, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The CSDP includes a strong conflict prevention component.*

*Based in Brussels, the **Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC)** is the permanent structure responsible for an autonomous operational conduct of civilian CSDP operations. Under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the High Representative, the CPCC ensures the effective planning and conduct of civilian CSDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.*

More information and background documents available on <http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp> and eeas.europa.eu