

EU COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EUROPEAN UNION AVIATION SECURITY MISSION (EUAVSEC) IN SOUTH SUDAN

Updated : Feb. 2014

MISSION BACKGROUND

The EU Aviation Security Mission (EUAVSEC) in South Sudan was a non-executive civilian mission. It was established by the European Union on 18 June 2012 with a 19 months mandate until 17 January 2014. EUAVSEC was the European Union's first engagement in South Sudan under the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy and was financed within the framework of the EU's Common Foreign & Security Policy. The mission is a part of the EU's Comprehensive Approach to Sudan and South Sudan.



Following half a century of civil war, South Sudan became an independent state in July 2011. As the world's youngest state, South Sudan faces substantial challenges in transitioning into a viable, peaceful, and prosperous state.

The mission responded to South Sudan's request for EU support to strengthening security at Juba International Airport, as part of the international community's overall assistance to the country. A key challenge for South Sudan is to establish a fully operational transport hub for commercial and passenger purposes. Improving airport security will not only contribute to the fight against crime and international terrorism, but also enable the increased flow of people and goods, thus helping to boost trade and promote regional integration.

The EU's engagement to support the development of Juba international Airport was a part of the EU's *Comprehensive Approach* to Sudan and South Sudan as agreed by EU Foreign Ministers in June 2011. This approach defined the EU's strategy to post-independent South Sudan, covering all aspects of the EU's support to this country: political/diplomatic, security and rule of law, stabilisation, development, human rights, humanitarian and trade.

MANDATE AND OBJECTIVE

EUAVSEC addressed specifically aviation security, which aims to prevent deliberate acts of unlawful interference against airports, aircraft, crew and passengers. It was not involved in aviation safety, which refers to the prevention of accidents and thus to all technical matters involving flight and airport operations.

The mission had a non-executive mandate: EUAVSEC aims to assist and advise South Sudan authorities to establish the aviation security organisation at the Ministry of Transport and to strengthen aviation security at Juba International Airport. EUAVSEC trained and mentored security services, provided advice and assistance on aviation security, as well as support the coordination of security activities related to aviation.

Whilst EUAVSEC contributed to strengthening the security at Juba International Airport, other instruments of EU and its Member States, as well as other international stakeholders, could create effective synergies by supporting the development of relevant infrastructure and institutions.

MISSIONS'S ACHIEVEMENTS

EUAVSEC started to deploy its personnel to Juba in October 2012.

FACTS AND FIGURES	
Theatre:	Juba, South Sudan
Headquarters :	The Headquarters is located in Juba, South Sudan.
Starting date:	18 June 2012. Closed on 17 January 2014.
Head of Mission:	Mr. Lasse Christensen
Deputy Head of Mission:	Mr. Desmond Ross
Mission Strength:	The current strength is 34 international and 15 local staff



The mission's advisors worked on a daily basis at the Ministry of Transport to assist the ministry to establish the aviation security organisation. EUAVSEC facilitated the establishment of an Airline Operators Committee at Juba International Airport and supported the ministry to establish a National Civil Aviation Security Committee. EUAVSEC also facilitated management training.

The mission's advisors and mentors worked at Juba International Airport. A milestone was reached in July 2013 with the set-up of the Airport Security Committee to include all stakeholders. The mission assisted the Committee to develop crisis management plans.

EUAVSEC established a training centre at Juba International Airport where EUAVSEC trainers trained South Sudanese airport staff. In the period January to October 2013 more than 600 training certificates were issued.

MISSION'S CLOSURE

According to the EUAVSEC mandate the Mission was closed on 17 January 2014.

*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