

Common Security and Defence Policy

EU Mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the area of defence (EUSEC RD CONGO)

Update: July 2015

Background

The EUSEC RD Congo mission, which has been deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since June 2005, reflects the EU's ongoing commitment to the Congolese people in terms of reforming their army.

Working closely with the other contributing members of the international community, EUSEC RD Congo provides practical support for security sector reform in the DRC by giving advice and assistance directly to the Congolese authorities. Advisers have been working with the military authorities in Kinshasa and the staffs of the Military Regions. EUSEC aims to ensure the coherence of EU action in reforming the security sector in the DRC, in coordination with the defence section of the support programme for security sector reform (PROGRESS), the EU delegation and Member States' embassies.

Since the original mandate, which aimed to support the integration process in the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and to run the "Chain of payments" project for ensuring the security of payments to the military, the mission has expanded its activities in this area with a view to modernising both administration and human resources management. It has also diversified its activities, providing assistance to its Congolese partners in the training of military officers.



Mandate and objectives

The general aim of the EUSEC mission is to support the Congolese authorities in rebuilding an army that will guarantee security throughout the country and in creating conditions conducive to a return to economic and social development. Based in Kinshasa, the mission is currently composed of about ten people. EUSEC is currently finalising ongoing projects at Kinshasa, at Kitona in Lower Congo and at Kananga in Kasai Occidental.

MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

Location: Democratic Republic of the Congo
Headquarters: Kinshasa
Starting date: June 2005
Current mandate: July 2015 – June 2016
Head of Mission: Colonel Johan DE LAERE
International staff: 10 persons
Mission budget: EUR 2.7 million
Contributing states: EU Member States



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EUSEC RD Congo is currently assisting the Congolese authorities in tailoring the security sector reform plan via a policy that is compliant with democratic standards, human rights and international humanitarian law, as well as good governance. The areas of activity of the mission are: 1. advising the Ministry of Defence, the FARDC General Staff, the Inspectorate-General, the Land Force and the Department of Civic and Patriotic

Education and Social Action (SECAS); 2. promoting the sustainability of the basic and academic military training system for FARDC officers. During this ninth mandate (1 July 2015 to 30 September 2016), concrete projects in support of the FARDC reform plan will be identified and managed with a view to carrying out and completing the mission's activities. Some of the mission's other activities have been transferred to the defence section of the support programme for security sector reform (PROGRESS), financed by the European Commission from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), which has already been established for a period of six years.

Ongoing projects

During this mandate, the mission will be advising the military authorities on the implementation of the army reform plan. The mission will provide experts to the Ministry of National Defence, Demobilisation and War Veterans, the General Staff, the Land Force Staff and the Inspectorate-General, to work with FARDC officers with a view to building teams capable of implementing the reform throughout the DRC. Furthermore, an adviser for the Military Regions has been appointed to monitor the implementation of orders relating to the new structures of the Land Forces and the Military Regions and to control the defence areas.

With regard to military training, following the re-opening of some schools during previous mandates, EUSEC is supporting the strengthening and establishment of training activities in line with the system of basic and academic military training of officers of the armed forces. The mission continues to support the general command of military schools (CGEM) and supports the organisation of the annual national competition for the selection of future students of the military schools. EUSEC supports the operation of the military schools in Kananga (Military Academy and School of Administration and Computing) and those in Kitona (School for Non-Commissioned Officers, Infantry School, Artillery School and Military Medical School).

Mission achievements

For the past ten years, EUSEC RD Congo has contributed to the drafting of various legislative texts. The mission has helped the Congolese authorities to strengthen respect for human rights and establish more transparent financial mechanisms. It has contributed to improving arms and ammunition management and storage conditions by constructing 11 armouries and ammunition depots throughout the country.

EUSEC RD Congo has supported the biometric census of troops carried out by FARDC, a cornerstone of the reform of personnel administration. The distribution of military identity cards has been successfully completed with the mission's support. An IT system for troop management and administration, (SINGAMIL), and biometric checks for staff have been implemented with the mission's support. Currently, this management system is used mainly for bank payments to military staff, implemented by the national authorities. This has made it possible to achieve separation between the payment system and the command chain. EUSEC RD Congo has developed the DRC Armed Forces' territorial IT network, installing 400 computers in Kinshasa and another 400 in the military regions.

With regard to training, EUSEC supports the general command of military schools (CGEM). The national competition for selection of future students of the military schools takes place annually throughout the country with the support of EUSEC RD Congo. So far the mission has upgraded the infrastructure and provided the furniture and IT and teaching equipment in seven military schools. The mission has installed a high quality printer at the CGEM for the printing of the military schools' syllabuses.



Working session with EUSEC, PROGRESS and the FARDC Press Service at Camp Kokolo, Kinshasa, July 2015.

*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 UN Charter. The CSDP includes a strong conflict prevention component.*

Further information and background documents can be found at
www.consilium.europa.eu/psdc and eeas.europa.eu