About Military Training mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM RCA)

In a letter dated 8 October 2015, the Chef de l'État de la Transition of the Central African Republic (CAR), Mrs Catherine Samba-Panza, invited the European Union to further support the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) through a reinforced operational training structure in full collaboration with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

On 14 March 2016, the Council approved the Crisis Management Concept on a possible EU Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM RCA), to contribute to the country's defence sector reform. In a letter dated 30 March 2016, the President of the CAR, Faustin-Archange Touadéra invited the Union to deploy an EU CSDP military training mission in the CAR (EUTM RCA).

Subsequently, on 19 April 2016 the Council formally decided to establish EUTM RCA with a view to launching it in July 2016.

In close coordination and complementarity with the MINUSCA, EUTM RCA will support the CAR Government in the implementation of the Security Sector Reform (SSR) by assisting the Forces Armées Centrafricaines (FACA). The goal is to support the build-up of a modernised, effective, ethnically balanced and democratically accountable FACA. The Mission shall concentrate its action in the Bangui and Bouar areas.

The new mission follows the EU Military Advisory Mission in the CAR (EUMAM RCA), the mandate of which came to its end on 17 July 2016.

Mandate

On 30 July 2018, the Council extended the mandate of the EUTM RCA by two years, i.e. until 19 September 2020. The Council also modified the mandate of the mission to enable it to give strategic advice not only to the Ministry of Defense, military staff and the armed forces, but also to the President's cabinet, and to allow it to provide advice on civil-military cooperation, including to the Ministry of the Interior and the Gendarmerie. The mandate enables the support of the CAR authorities in the preparation and implementation of the upcoming Defence and Security Sector Reform (SSR) by assisting the FACA to manage their situation and to build the capacity and quality needed to meet the goal of a future modernised, effective, ethnically balanced and democratically accountable FACA.
Activities

In conjunction with MINUSCA, provides advice to the Presidential teams overseeing national security policy and SSR.

To this end, the EUTM RCA contributes to the restructuring of the Defense sector in three domains: strategic advice, operational training and education. Since July 2016 the EUTM RCA has advised, educated and trained more than 3,400 soldiers, men and women of FACA.

1. The mission provided strategic advice to the political and military authorities, both in the field of the deployment planning and in the development of major documents: National Defense Plan (2017), military programming law (2019-2023), recruitments plan (2018), others.

It also analysed some projects to support the deployment of FACA:

- assembly of military bridges in SAPEKE and ZINGA,
- Infrastructure and equipment projects financed by the European Union.

2. Within the operational training domain, EUTM RCA has trained five battalions: four (4) deployable infantry battalions (the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Bataillon d’Infanterie Territorial - BIT), and one (1) Amphibious Battalion.

EUTM RCA has also educated 1,200 officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) in specialized areas such as signals, leadership, tactics, International Humanitarian Law, human rights and prevention of sexual abuse and VIH/AIDS;

More than 4,000 FACA have been trained and amongst the 1,500 FACA deployed in the CAR, 1,100 have been trained by EUTM RCA; Since July 26th more than 1,018 recruits have been receiving a basic training organized both in KASSAI (512 FACA) and in BOUAR (506 FACA);

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