



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

European Union Training Mission in Central African Republic (EUTM-RCA)

Updated: 11 Jan 2018

Mission Background:

After a prolonged period of unrest, instability in Central African Republic (CAR) peaked in 2013 culminating in the near collapse of the CAR state. The disintegration of state institutions and return to a subsistence economy due to internal conflict resulted in a very complex situation that required an urgent response by the international community.

In a letter dated 8 October 2015, the Chef de l'État de la Transition of the country, 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 Touadera 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.

Mandate and Objectives

Launched on 16 July 2016, its first mandate is due to expire on 20 Sep 18. 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 modernized, effective, ethnically balanced and democratically accountable FACA.

FACTS and FIGURES	
Mission Area: Bangui city (expanded)	
Headquarters: Camp UCATEX (Bangui)	
Mandate started: July 2016	
Mandate renewed: Renewal expected by September 2018	
Mission Force Commander: Brig Gen (OF-6) Hermínio MAIO (PT)	
Mission Strength: 170	
Troop Contributing Nations (TCNs): 10 ; Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain and Sweden	
Mission Budget: 4.180.512 €	

Activities

Provides advice at the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Joint Army Staff levels through eight working groups, staffed by the MoD, the Armed Forces and the mission. These working groups deal with the following topics; defence policy, education and training, human resources, communications and information systems, logistics, intelligence, ,budget and finance and public information.

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

By the end of 2017, EUTM RCA had trained approximately 1,300 soldiers from two Infantry Territorial Battalions (BITs). This training includes basic military infantry skills such as individual and collective movements, shooting, physical training, the basics of international law, human rights, body combat and first aid skills.

Provides education to FACA's commissioned and non-commissioned officers as well as specialists and provides operational training to FACA.

Political Control and Strategic Direction

The Political and Security Committee (PSC) exercises the political control and strategic direction of EUTM RCA, under the responsibility of the Council of the European Union and of the High Representative.

Military Direction

Lt Gen PULKKINEN, Director of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability, (MPCC) is the Operational Mission Commander, based in Brussels. Since 11 Jan 2018 the Mission Force Commander in theatre is Brig Gen Hermínio MAIO (PT) for the 170 personnel drawn from 10 Nations contributing to this Mission.

The EU's integrated approach

EUTM RCA is part of the EU's integrated approach in the Central African Republic. This approach aims to contribute to the African and wider international efforts to restore stability and support the political transition process in the country.

The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) enables the European Union to take a leading role in peace-keeping operations, conflict prevention and the strengthening of international security. It is an integral part of the EU's Global Strategy towards crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets.

*The European Union's **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy that may 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.*

More information and background documents available on:

https://eeas.europa.eu/csdp-missions-operations/eutm-rca_en