



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **EUTM RCA launched in Central African Republic**

16 July 2016.

The European Union Training Mission in Central African Republic (EUTM RCA) was launched on 16 July 2016, in a ceremony that took place in Bangui “la coquette”, the capital of Central African Republic.

The Prime Minister of Central African Republic, the Vice president of the Assembly and the Ministry of Defense represented the Central African people, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General, the chief of the European Union Delegation in CAR were also present during the ceremony.

The Chairman of the European Union Military Committee General Mikhail Kostarakos addressed the media in a press conference after the military parade: “The European Union strength and added value lay on the diversity and the combination of the tools available for its participation in a crisis resolution. These political, diplomatic, economic, humanitarian, legal and military tools allow the European Union not only react to crisis but also influence in their long term resolution. That is why the European Union activities are supported by the international community and welcome by all African states.”

At the request of the Central African Republic (CAR) authorities, the European Union established a EU Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) military training mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM RCA), that will last two years and will have its headquarters in Bangui.



# E U T M R C A

As an integral part of the European Union comprehensive approach, encompassing political, security, humanitarian and development actions, EUTM RCA builds on the achievements of EUMAM RCA and goes beyond. It will provide strategic advice to the CAR Ministry of Defense and the General Staff, education to vetted Non-Commission Officers and Officers, as well as operational training vetted units and specialists of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA).

EUTM RCA will support the Central African Government in the preparation and implementation of the Security Sector Reform by assisting the FACA to manage their existing situation and to build the capacity and quality needed to meet the goal of a future modernized, effective, ethnically balanced and democratically accountable FACA, concentrating its action in the Bangui area.

170 soldiers from ten countries (Austria, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain and Sweden) have been committed by their capitals to the EUTM RCA. 62 come from Eurocorps, a multinational Headquarters based in Strasbourg (France), who form the key nucleus of EUTM RCA.