

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENSE POLICY

Civilian Mission EUCAP Sahel Niger

Update: November 2018

Update: November The crisis in Mali, instability in Libya and Boko Haram terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin are all threatening Niger's security and development. In addition, the country is faced with the challenge of illegal trafficking of drugs, weapons and people on its territory, which may serve to fund terrorist groups who avail of Niger's vast desert areas as trafficking routes or safe havens. With this in mind, it is vital for Niger to have a well-functioning and capable security sector.

The current instability in the Sahel and the cross-border nature of these security threats confirm the relevance of the regional approach outlined in the European Union strategy for security and development in the Sahel region, adopted in March 2011. EUCAP Sahel Niger, a CSDP civilian mission launched at the request of Niger's government in August 2012, is an important part of this EU strategy and is complementary to other EU instruments for development and stability.

The mission's mandate

EUCAP Sahel Niger contributes to the development of an integrated, coherent, sustainable, and human rights-based approach among the various Nigerien security agencies in the fight against terrorism and organised crime. In 2015, a new objective was added: to fight against irregular migration and associated criminal activities.

The mission provides strategic and technical advice and trainings, complemented by equipment, to support the Nigerien authorities' efforts to strengthen their security capabilities. Around 130 international experts, coming from European security forces, justice and foreign affairs departments are permanently deployed to Niger.

Since 2015, EUCAP Sahel Niger increased its assistance to regions of Niger, in particular in Agadez (through the establishment of a permanent field office inaugurated on April 29th 2016). The presence of the Mission in Agadez contributes to an enhanced control of irregular migration flows and related crimes, such as trafficking of people, weapons, drugs and forgery of documents.



FACTS AND FIGURES

Location: Republic of Niger
Headquarters: Niamey
Field Office: Agadez
Mission start date: 8 August 2012
End date of the fourth mandate: 30 September 2020
Head of Mission: Mr. Frank van der Mueren
Mission strength: the maximum strength authorised by the OPLAN is 202 members in total (131 international experts and 71 local staff)
Contributing states: 15 Member States of the European Union
Mission budget: EUR 31 million for the period 16 July 2017 to 15 July 2018



The Mission has also increased its cooperation with the other CSDP missions in the region, especially EUCAP Sahel Mali, but also EUBAM Libya and it supports the Regional Coordination Cell in the framework of the EU's regionalisation concept for G5 Sahel countries.

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Mission Objectives

1. Help Niger's security forces achieve interoperability and help to develop their operating strategies.
3. Strengthen Nigerien security forces technical expertise in combating terrorism and organised crime.
4. Support the security forces' capacity to improve irregular migration flows and to combat irregular migration and associated criminal activities more effectively.
5. Support the development of regional and international coordination in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.



Activities and outcomes

EUCAP Sahel Niger has provided strategic advice to the Nigerien authorities, including the elaboration of National Internal Security Strategy which was approved by Presidential decree on 29 September 2017. This strategy will contribute to development the efficiency of the regional operational command centres in order to improve the response capacity of security forces to crises as well as to enhance their interoperability. The Mission also contributed to technical expertise of security forces in the collection and sharing of intelligence between security forces, development of police forensic expertise, training of the municipal police of the Agadez region, improving HR management systems, improving pedagogical skills in training centres and schools and helping to ensure that the armed and internal security forces act on a sound legal basis in their mission to combat terrorism, organised crime and irregular migration networks. EUCAP Sahel Niger's experts have trained around 13,000 members of the country's internal security forces, armed forces and judiciary.

EUCAP Sahel Niger, jointly with the EU Delegation to Niger, acts as Secretariat for international coordination in the security sector in Niger. The Mission works strengthen coordination of international support to Nigerien security forces. To further enhance cooperation, the mission cooperates closely with other EU programmes as well as other international partners working in Niger.



*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 capabilities 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 the 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 effective planning and conduct of civilian CSDP crisis management operations, as well as proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.*

More information and background documents available at <http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp> **and** <http://eeas.europa.eu>