



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

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

Updated: 30 April 2019

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 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.

Mandate and Objectives

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.

FACTS and FIGURES	
Mission Area: Bangui city (expanded)	
Headquarters: Camp UCATEX (Bangui)	
Mandate started: July 2016	
Mandate: Expires 19 Sept 2020	
Mission Force Commander: OF-7 Hermínio MAIO (PRT)	
Mission Strength: 187	
Troop Contributing Nations (TCNs): Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Italy, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain and Sweden	
Mission Budget from 20 September 2018 to 19 September 2020 : €25.4 million for the common costs	

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 **4,000 soldiers**, FACA men and women.

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**, military procurement law, recruitments plan, others). It also analysed 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 **four (4) deployable infantry battalions** (the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th *Batallion d'Infanterie Territoriale* - BIT), and the Amphibious Battalion. EUTM RCA has also completed the validation of **three (3) specialised units** (special group of republican protection, special forces and intelligence), while providing **specific educational courses** to 1,200 officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) in subjects such as signals, leadership, tactics, International Humanitarian Law, human rights and prevention of sexual abuse and VIH/AIDS, amongst others.
3. Finally, EUTM RCA has enabled the **reintegration of 232 former rebels** into the FACA as part of the National Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration and Repatriation (DDRR) program.

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 Esa PULKKINEN (FI), 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 Major General Hermínio MAIO (PT) for the 187 personnel drawn from 11 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 led by the European Union Delegation in CAR aims to contribute to the African and wider international efforts to restore sustainable stability, to support the political transition process in the country and to enhance the Development.

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