

## COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENSE POLICY

### Civilian Mission EUCAP Sahel Niger

Update: August 2018

The crisis in Mali, the instability in Libya and Boko Haram terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin are all threats to Niger's security and development. In addition, the country is faced with the illegal trafficking of drugs, weapons and human beings that serve to some extent in funding terrorist groups who use Niger's vast desert regions as trafficking routes or safe havens. This combination of threats makes it vital for Niger to have a well-functioning and capable security sector.

The current instability in the Sahel and the cross-border nature of the security threats confirm the relevance of the regional approach described in the EU strategy for security and development in the Sahel, adopted in March 2011. EUCAP Sahel Niger, a civilian CSDP Mission launched at the request of Niger's government in August 2012, is an important element of this EU strategy. It complements 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; that of the fight against irregular migration and associated criminal activities.

The Mission provides strategic and technical advice and trainings on multiple themes, and complements with 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 in Niamey.

Since 2015, EUCAP Sahel Niger increased its assistance to the Nigerien regions, in particular to Agadez (through the establishment of a permanent field office inaugurated on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016) that are facing a high number of security threats. The presence of the Mission in Agadez contributes to a better control of the irregular migration flows and its related crimes, such as human smuggling, arms or drugs trafficking or forgery of documents.

#### FACTS AND FIGURES

Venue: Republic of Niger

Headquarters: Niamey

Field Office: Agadez

Mission start date: 8 August 2012

End date of the third mandate: 15 July 2018

Head of Mission: 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



Finally, the Mission has 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 the countries of the G5 Sahel.

[www.eucap-sahel.eu](http://www.eucap-sahel.eu)

Twitter: EUCAPSahelNiger

## Mission Objectives

1. Help Niger's security forces achieve interoperability and develop their operating strategies.
2. Strengthen the Nigerien security sector's expertise in combating terrorism and organised crime.
3. Improve the human resources, training and logistics management policies to ensure that the achievements made under objectives 1 and 2 can be sustained.
4. Support the development of regional and international coordination in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.
5. Support the security forces' capability to better control irregular migration flows and to combat irregular migration and associated criminal activity more effectively.



## Actions and outcomes

In carrying out its mandate, EUCAP Sahel Niger contributes by offering strategic advice to the Nigerien authorities. It assisted in the elaboration of the National Internal Security Strategy which was approved by Presidential decree on 29 September 2017. The strategy aims at developing the efficiency of the regional operational command centres to improve the response capacities of the security forces to crises as well as their interoperability. The Mission also contributes to: The collection and sharing of intelligence between the forces; developing forensic expertise; improving HR management systems; improving the teaching capacity of the security forces' training centres and schools; and ensuring 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 12,000 members of the country's internal security forces, armed forces and judiciary. Emphasis is put on training of trainers in combination with delivery of equipment, so knowledge and skills acquired can be sustained. The Mission has also expanded its activities and has increased its support in the field of strategic advice regarding its five objectives, and is further complementing other European tools in the region through sharing of expertise and support to projects implemented under the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

EUCAP, jointly with the EU Delegation, provides the secretariat for international coordination in the security sector in Niger. As such, it helps to coordinate all international assistance and donations to Nigerien security forces. To strengthen cooperation, the mission runs joint activities 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>**