



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EU Military Operation in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic (EUFOR Tchad/RCA)

Updated: September 2008
Tchad-RCA/6

Operation background

Operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA reached its Initial Operational Capability on 15 March 2008. Final Operational Capability was reached mid-September 2008.

The EU decided on 28 January 2008 to launch this bridging military operation in Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) in accordance with the mandate set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007). This operation comes within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).



EU High Representative Javier Solana visiting Chad, May 2008

In conducting this operation the EU is stepping up its longstanding action in support of efforts to tackle the crisis in Darfur as part of a regional approach to that crisis.

The operation is conducted with the agreement of the Chadian and Central African governments.

In its resolution 1778 of 25 September 2007, the UN Security Council approved the establishment of a UN Mission in Chad and the Central African Republic (MINURCAT) and authorised the EU to deploy forces in these countries for a period of 12 months from the declaration of Initial Operational Capability.

Mandate and objectives

EUFOR Tchad/RCA is a bridging operation which closely coordinates with the multi-dimensional United Nations presence in the East of Chad and in the North-East of the CAR in order to improve security in those regions. More specifically, the EU operation has the following objectives:

- to contribute to protecting civilians in danger, particularly refugees and displaced persons;
- to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel by helping to improve security in the area of operations;
- to contribute to protecting UN personnel, facilities, installations and equipment and to ensuring the security and freedom of movement of its staff and UN and associated personnel.

Operational parameters

EUFOR Tchad/RCA is a demanding operation in particular with respect to the situation on the ground, the vast area to be covered and the logistical constraints.

When completely deployed, the EU operation will include around 3,700 troops. At the beginning of September, some 3,400 troops were deployed in theatre. It is the most multinational military operation conducted in Africa by the EU so far, with 14 EU Member States present in the field, 18 in theatre, and 24 at the Operations Headquarters (OHQ), which is located at Mont Valérien (France).

The EU Operation Commander is Lt General Patrick NASH (Ireland). The EU Force Commander is Brigadier General Jean-Philippe GANASCIA (France).

The deployment includes a rear Force Headquarters (FHQ) at N'Djamena, an FHQ at Abeche and three battalions stationed respectively in the eastern Chad areas of Iriba (North), Forchana (Centre) and Goz Beida (South), as well as a detachment in Birao (Central African Republic).

MISSION FACTS

Theatre: Chad and Central African Republic
Headquarters: OHQ: Mont-Valérien (Paris)
Rear FHQ: N'Djamena, FHQ: Abéché
Starting Date: January 2008 (IOC 15 March 2008)
Head of Mission: General Patrick Nash (Op.Cdr.)
Mission strength: 3700
Mission budget: EUR 119.6 m (common costs)
Contributing states: 24 EU member states (OHQ),
18 in theatre, 3 Third States.



EUFOR Tchad/RCA has an appropriate mandate allowing the use of armed force if necessary. It is independent, impartial and neutral.

A comprehensive EU approach

The establishment of EUFOR Tchad/RCA forms part of a comprehensive package of enhanced EU commitment to a solution to the crisis in Darfur. All EU instruments – diplomatic, political and financial – are mobilised in support of this effort. The main components, all interlinked, comprise:

- increased support for African Union (AU) and UN efforts to revitalise the political process with a view to finding a lasting solution;
- speeding up establishment of UNAMID in Darfur;
- increased mobilisation to finance humanitarian aid, but also to secure humanitarian access.



In this regard, the European Commission intends to implement transitional programmes of recovery and rehabilitation, covering reconciliation-oriented activities, support for the voluntary return of displaced persons and rehabilitation in their places of origin, and support for local governance. In Chad, the EU, through the European Commission, contributes substantially to the UN programme for the establishment of the UN police force (MINURCAT), which train and equip Chadian police officers as well as deploy them in the refugee and IDP camps in eastern Chad. In north-eastern CAR, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities are undertaken.

These measures will be continued within the strategic framework of the 10th EDF (European Development Fund), which will allocate EUR 299 million to Chad and EUR 137 million to CAR over a five-year period.

*The European Union's **European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)** includes the gradual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence. The ESDP 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 ESDP includes a strong conflict prevention component.*

More information and background documents available on <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/esdp> and <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eufor-tchad-rca>