



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 12 February 2008
6372/08 (Presse 38)

Council establishes EU mission in support of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau

The Council adopted a joint action establishing an EU mission in support of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau (EU SSR Guinea-Bissau) to be conducted under the European security and defence policy (ESDP) (5497/08).

The overall objective of EU SSR Guinea Bissau is to provide advice and assistance to the local authorities on reform of the security sector in Guinea-Bissau, in order to contribute to creating the conditions for implementation of the national security sector reform strategy, in close cooperation with other EU, international and bilateral actors, and with a view to facilitating subsequent donor engagement.

The particular objectives of the mission are notably the following:

- Operationalisation of the national security strategy through assisting in the development of detailed implementation plans for downsizing/restructuring the armed forces and security forces.
- Assistance to the development and articulation of capacity-building needs, including training and equipment, facilitating subsequent mobilisation of, and engagement by, donors.

P R E S S

The mission will last up to 12 months from the declaration of initial operational capability.

The financial reference to cover expenditure relating to the mission amounts to EUR 5.65 million.

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**EUROPEAN UNION
COUNCIL SECRETARIAT**

~BACKGROUND~

February 2008

EU mission in support of security sector reform

in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

(EU SSR GUINEA-BISSAU)

The European Union (EU) has decided to establish an EU Mission in support of security sector reform (SSR) in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. This mission will be conducted in the framework of the European security and defence policy (ESDP)

Called "EU SSR Guinea-Bissau", the Mission will provide advice and assistance on reform of the security sector in Guinea Bissau in order to contribute to creating the conditions for implementation of the National Security Sector Reform Strategy (adopted by the authorities of Guinea-Bissau and endorsed by the international donors round table for Guinea-Bissau at its meeting in November 2006).

More specifically, EU SSR Guinea-Bissau will pursue the following main objectives:

- advise on and contribute to the development of detailed resizing/restructuring plans for the armed forces;

- support the development of detailed plans for reorganisation/restructuring of police bodies, including the definition of a legal framework and mainstreaming the counter-narcotics effort;
- advise on planning and development of an effective criminal investigations capacity;
- advise on the Interpol National Central Bureau in Bissau;
- assist planning and advise on the organisation of short-term training activities for the Judicial Police as required.

The ESDP action in support of the national SSR strategy in Guinea Bissau is undertaken in partnership with the country which keeps ownership of the SSR process.

The Mission will cover an initial period of up to 12 months. It will comprise a preparatory phase beginning in early March 2008 and an implementation phase beginning in May 2008.

EU SSR Guinea-Bissau will consist of around 15 military and civilian advisers in the fields of armed forces, police and justice (plus support staff).

The financial reference amount to cover expenditure relating to the Mission will be around EUR 5.6 million.

The EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) will exercise, under the responsibility of the Council of the EU, political control and strategic direction of the Mission.

The mission is in line with the joint "Africa-EU strategic partnership" adopted at the 8-9 December 2007 EU-Africa summit in Lisbon. The strategic partnership identifies peace and security as a major area of cooperation.

EU SSR Guinea-Bissau will be part of a coherent EU approach and complementary to the activities financed by the European Development Fund (EDF), other European Community activities and member states' efforts. The overall allocation for Guinea-Bissau under the 9th EDF amounts to EUR 92.3 million, of which EUR 19.5 million for the rule of law. Under the 10th EDF (2008-2013), support to SSR will continue with a potential amount of EUR 27 million under the focal sector "conflict prevention". This will cover justice, administration reforms, and SSR.