



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## **Council conclusions on the Central African Republic**

*FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting  
Brussels, 20 January 2014*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The European Union (EU) is deeply concerned by the extreme insecurity and instability in the Central African Republic (CAR), particularly since the attacks of 5 December 2013, which caused heavy civilian casualties, massive displacements of populations, several serious human rights violations and a dramatic worsening of the humanitarian situation. It expresses its concern about the risk of the Central African conflict having an effect on the neighbouring countries. In this context, the EU commends the rapid deployment by the African Union (AU) of the International Support Mission in the CAR (MISCA) and the support given to it by France's Operation Sangaris in accordance with United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2127 (2013). These joint efforts have brought improved security which, as a prerequisite for the country to return to stability, must be consolidated.
2. The Council, convinced of the importance of supporting African efforts and stepping up EU involvement in the CAR as part of its overall approach, wishes to thank the High Representative for the proposal she has put forward to ensure that the EU plays an active part in helping to stabilise the CAR under the CSDP. The Council reached political agreement on a future CSDP military operation and, to that end, approved the Crisis Management Concept. It asked the competent bodies to prepare the necessary measures in order rapidly to establish this operation, subject to a new Council decision. The operation will provide temporary support, for a period of up to six months, to help to achieve a secure environment in the Bangui area, with a view to handing over to the AU. This objective takes full account of UN Security Council Resolution 2127, and in particular of the possibility of MISCA being transformed into a UN peacekeeping operation.

# **P R E S S**

The military force would thereby contribute, within its area of operations, to international and regional efforts to protect the populations most at risk and would contribute to the free movement of civilians. All these efforts will create the conditions that are required in order to provide humanitarian aid for those who need it. The Council wishes to stress that this operation must be based on a United Nations Security Council resolution which will make it possible for a EUFOR operation in the CAR to be launched without delay in support of the efforts deployed by the international community, in particular the AU, the UN and France, and by the Central African authorities, and it stresses the importance of an accelerated planning process.

3. To that end, the Council has designated the EU OHQ in Larissa as the planning authority . It has requested that operational planning activities continue using accelerated procedures. Lastly, the Council emphasises the importance of close coordination with the partners involved, in particular the Central African authorities, the UN, the AU and France, to ensure good cooperation and complementarity of the efforts under way to restore stability in the CAR.
4. The EU calls for the continued mobilisation of the international community to assist the CAR, in particular in the context of the Donors Conference for MISCA scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa on 1 February 2014 at the invitation of the AU. It also stresses the important role of the United Nations in the CAR.
5. The EU welcomes the initiative taken by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), aimed at relaunching the political process, in accordance with the framework that resulted from the Libreville Agreement of 11 January 2013, the N'Djamena Declarations of 18 April 2013 and 21 October 2013, the Constitutional Charter of the Transition and UNSC Resolution 2127 (2013). It has noted the resignations of the Head of State of the Transition in the CAR, Michel Djotodia, and of the Prime Minister, Nicolas Tiangaye, confirmed by the regional summit held in N'Djamena on 9 and 10 January 2014.
6. The EU invites the ECCAS and the AU to continue to support the political process. It reminds all those involved in the Transition of the need to work together, as well as with the political parties and civil society, in an inclusive manner and in good faith, to bring the Transition process to a conclusion and enable elections to be held by February 2015 at the latest as the first stage in a sustainable political process. The EU stands ready to support the preparation and holding of elections, in conjunction with its international partners, notably the United Nations.
7. The EU is committed to inclusive dialogue, national reconciliation, participatory processes and ensuring that all those who should steer the Transition process are represented. The EU welcomes all the mediation and reconciliation initiatives taken by religious leaders, which are indispensable if the different Central African communities and religions are soon to live peacefully side by side once again. It calls on all stakeholders, and in particular the new transitional authorities, to seek to resolve the root causes of the persistent instability in the CAR.

8. The EU recalls that all state and non-state actors are required to respect human rights and humanitarian law in the CAR. It calls on all parties to the conflict to end the violent attacks against the population and other violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The EU strongly condemns impunity and recalls that all who perpetrate such violations, including the leaders and members of the Lord's Resistance Army and other armed groups, such as for instance the ex-Seleka and anti-balaka groups, will have to answer for their crimes in court. It condemns in particular summary executions, mutilations, enforced disappearances, rape and other forms of sexual violence, the recruitment and use of children by armed groups and armed forces and deliberate attacks against civilians motivated by their religious or ethnic background, which have been highlighted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It welcomes the fact that the Human Rights Council is to hold a special session on 20 January on the human rights situation in the CAR. The EU again stresses that primary responsibility for protecting civilian populations rests with the CAR transitional authorities. The EU notes that the CAR has ratified the Rome Statute and that acts constituting crimes against humanity and war crimes come under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The EU encourages the rapid establishment of the international commission of inquiry provided for in UNSC Resolution 2127 (2013). In this context, the EU reaffirms its resolute support for the ICC.
9. The EU remains concerned by the seriousness of the humanitarian situation, which is affecting the whole population. It recalls that all the parties must ensure immediate, unfettered and safe access to humanitarian aid organisations working to help the populations in the CAR, with due regard for international humanitarian law and principles. The EU and its Member States, which together constitute the largest humanitarian donor, will remain on alert to increase the European financial commitment for the humanitarian response to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations in Bangui, in the rest of the Central African Republic's territory, and in the countries of the sub-region taking in refugees from the Central African Republic. The Council welcomes the resolute action by the European Commission, in particular the high-level meeting being organised jointly by Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva and UN Under-Secretary-General Valerie Amos on 20 January 2014 in Brussels. The EU urgently appeals to members of the international community to make a substantial contribution to the basic needs of the CAR population and to take an approach that closely links the emergency relief effort and development aid, coordinated by humanitarian and development actors and international financial institutions.
10. As the largest contributor to development aid in the CAR, the EU undertakes to examine immediately, in coordination with international financial institutions, all the measures which will make it possible to rebuild the state and prevent worsening conditions for the population as a result of the fall-out from the crisis. The EU pledges to examine straight away the conditions for an engagement in the rule of law area and security sector reform. Moreover, it plans to resume its cooperation projects, as soon as the security situation allows it to contribute fully to the CAR's reconstruction."