



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 16 February 2009  
S039/09**

**Javier SOLANA,  
EU High Representative for the CFSP,  
prepares the transition from EUFOR TCHAD/RCA to MINURCAT  
with the UN Special Representative Victor da SILVA ANGELO**

**Javier SOLANA, European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), today had a meeting with Victor da SILVA ANGELO, UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Chad, to assess progress towards transition from EUFOR Tchad/ RCA to MINURCAT.**

***After the meeting, Mr Solana said: "I had a very good exchange with Special Representative da Silva on how the work for a smooth transition from EUFOR Chad/RCA to MINURCAT is progressing. I am very pleased that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed last Friday between the UN and the Government of Chad for the transfer of infrastructure and assets to facilitate the transition to MINURCAT. With EUFOR, the European Union decisively contributed to increased security for the civilian populations and humanitarian workers in the region. Now that this operation is coming to an end soon, it is essential to ensure a seamless transition and we are working very closely with the UN to make this happen."***

**The meeting between Mr Solana and Mr Angelo took place immediately following the signature, on Friday 13 February 2009, of a MoU between the UN and the Government of Chad on the transfer of infrastructure and assets to facilitate the transition and deployment of MINURCAT. The meeting allowed the High Representative and Mr Angelo to exchange information on how the work for transition is progressing and to take stock of what remains to be done.**

**EUFOR Tchad/RCA, launched in January 2008, will end on 15 March 2009 after having decisively contributed to protecting civilian populations, in particular refugees and displaced persons, and to facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid in Eastern Chad and the north of the Central African Republic. The EU is now working in very close cooperation with the UN to enable MINURCAT to take over in the best conditions. MINURCAT will benefit from EUFOR installations and logistic assets.**

---

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS:**

**Spokesperson of the Secretary General, High Representative for CFSP**

**■ +32 (0)2 281 6467 / 5150 / 5151 ☎ +32 (0)2 281 5694**

**internet: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/solana>**

**e-mail: [presse.cabinet@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:presse.cabinet@consilium.europa.eu)**

# Latest news on EUFOR TCHAD/RCA

## 11.2.2009 - Multinational Battalion-Centre: the mission goes on

On January 14<sup>th</sup> 2009, the UN Security Council voted resolution 1861. This resolution confirms that the United Nations will takeover the European forces of operation EUFOR Tchad / RCA on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2009.

While headquarters are preparing this transfer of authority, Multinational Battalions carry on with their missions on the ground. Patrols have been increased to ensure security in EUFOR area of operation.

Thus, the Multinational Battalion Centre ensures the surveillance of its district. While on patrol the French troops maintain a contact with local authorities (CONAFIT, Gendarmerie etc). This close and regular contact guarantees a necessary exchange of information between the force and the population.

The patrols take every opportunity to reinforce their relationship with the Chadian local population. The village daily market is, as anywhere else in the world, an intense and fruitful exchange place that can't be ignored by european soldiers.



[More photos available here](#)  
[Watch the video](#)

## 6.2.2009 - Slovenian actions in Chad

Within the Multinational battalion Centre (MNB-C) area of operation - with Forchana as central point – the Slovenian detachment takes part in security missions for eastern Chad population. The relationship with local authorities and population is a key element of their action. The language barrier could be a problem, but the presence of a liaison officer, who translates into French, enables to overcome this language difficulty.

After a few weeks, the Slovenian soldiers are, thus, perfectly at ease in a still tough and challenging environment. The population's reactions show that they trust these soldiers and understand how important their action is.



[More photos available here](#)  
[Watch the video](#)

## 29.1.2009 - Field cinema

Ten months after the beginning of operation, information by local populations remain a priority for EUFOR Tchad/RCA.

District or village meeting is a simple but particularly efficient action for a society that is based on oral tradition. Carefully planned and prepared those meetings are satisfactory for both the local authorities and population. Thus they contribute in a better knowledge and understanding of the Force intentions and capacities.

The broadcast of a movie, using "field cinema", is an important moment of those meetings and selection of the movie must be consensual and fit to a large audience. The animation movie 'Kirikou' was therefore broadcast as it fits to a large audience and wins unanimous support from both kids and their parents. For instance, a village meeting organised in ARKOUM (500 inhabitants located near a camp gathering 15.000 IDPs) enabled Multinational Battalion-Centre to meet the heads of the canton, village and camp and then to express itself in front of more than 2000 people.

By facilitating dialogue between various actors, those meetings are an efficient tool that contributes in creating and maintaining a secure area in eastern Chad and north-eastern CAR.



**More photos available here**  
**Watch the video**

*for more information check [www.consilium.europa.eu/eufor-tchad-rca](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eufor-tchad-rca)*