



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**Javier SOLANA,  
EU High Representative for the CFSP,  
congratulates Lieutenant General Patrick NASH ,  
Operation Commander of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA  
on the successful completion of the mission**

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), today met Lieutenant General Patrick Nash, Operation Commander of the EU military operation EUFOR TCHAD/RCA on the occasion of the completion of the operation and its handover to the UN, that took place on 15 March 2009. Mr Solana made the following comments:

*"I want to congratulate Lieutenant General Patrick Nash and all those who participated in EUFOR Tchad/RCA for the excellent work they carried both on the ground and in the operation's headquarters in France. Over the 12 months of the mission's deployment, more than 10 000 men and women were deployed in Eastern Chad and the northern part of the Central African Republic.*

*In a very demanding terrain, they effectively contributed to a safer environment for civilians, in particular refugees and displaced people. They also enabled the UN, international humanitarian organisations and NGOs to carry out their work safely. The presence of EUFOR Tchad/RCA has made a positive difference to the security environment.*

*EUFOR has now handed over to the UN peacekeeping force but the European Union will remain engaged. Some 2 000 soldiers who served under EUFOR will continue to do so under the MINURCAT banner. There is still much to be done. The European Union will also remain engaged on the humanitarian and development side. Our political and diplomatic efforts will continue in Chad, in the Central African Republic and especially in Sudan, where the implementation of the comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur peace process is crucial to the stabilisation of the region."*

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Attached:

- Factsheet on EUFOR Tchad/RCA



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY**

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

Updated: March 2009  
Tchad-RCA/9

### **Operation background**

From 28 January 2008 to 15 March 2009, the European Union conducted the military bridging operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA, in accordance with the mandate given by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1778 (25 September 2007).

This operation, deployed in Eastern Chad and in the North East of the Central African Republic, came within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The operation was conducted with the agreement of the Chadian and Central African governments.



**General M. Kandji, MINURCAT  
Force Commander, and General  
J-P Ganascia, EUFOR Force Commander**

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

The United Nations took over from EUFOR with effect from 15 March 2009 in both Chad and the CAR, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1834. To prepare for this transfer of responsibilities, there has been close cooperation between EUFOR and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), which was also set up by Resolution 1778. It has the task of helping to maintain order in the refugee camps, and amongst the concentrations of displaced persons in close proximity to the border with Darfur.

### **Mandate and objectives**

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


The operation reached its Initial Operational Capability on 15 March 2008. When completely deployed, it had included up to 3700 troops.

It was the most multinational military operation conducted in Africa by the EU so far, with 14 EU Member States present in the field, 19 in theatre, and 22 at the Operations Headquarters (OHQ), which was located at Mont Valérien (France).

### FAITS ET CHIFFRES

Theatre: **Chad and Central African Republic**  
Headquarters: **OHQ: Mont-Valérien (Paris)**  
Rear FHQ: **N'Djamena, FHQ: Abéché**  
Starting Date: **January 2008 (COI 15 March 2008)**  
Operation Commander: **General Patrick Nash (Op.Cdr.)**  
Mission strength: **3700**  
Budget: **EUR 119,6 millions (common costs)**  
Contributing states: **26 in total: 23 EU Member States and 3 Third States.**

[www.consilium.europa.eu/eufor-tchad-rca](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eufor-tchad-rca)

The logo of the EUFOR Tchad/RCA mission. It features a blue circle with twelve yellow stars, similar to the European Union flag. Inside the circle, the map of Africa is shown in a lighter blue color. The text 'EUFOR' is written in yellow at the top, and 'Tchad/RCA' is written in yellow at the bottom.

The EU Operation Commander was Lt General Patrick Nash (Ireland). The EU Force Commander was Brigadier General Jean-Philippe Ganascia (France).

The deployment included a rear Force Headquarters (FHQ) at N'Djamena, an FHQ at Abéché 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).

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

## A comprehensive EU approach

The establishment of EUFOR Tchad/RCA formed 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 being 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 in Darfur;
- speeding up the full and effective deployment of the AU/UN hybrid operation (UNAMID) in Darfur;
- increased mobilisation to finance humanitarian aid, but also to secure humanitarian access.

In this regard, the European Union, through the European Commission, is supporting the MINURCAT. Through the Instrument for stability, the European Commission has made a contribution of EUR 10 million to MINURCAT's fund to finance its training, equipment and support programme for the deployment of Chadian police and gendarmes with responsibility for the security of the refugee camps and displaced persons sites in eastern Chad.

The European Community is also providing substantial funding for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of return zones for displaced persons, particularly through reconstruction, mediation and administrative capacity-building action, which is necessary to improve security in the areas covered by the EU/UN mission.

In Chad, the objective of the Accompanying Programme for Stabilisation (provided for the period 2008-2012) is to facilitate the transitional phase between emergency and development programmes by helping to establish the conditions for the voluntary and permanent return of displaced persons and refugees. The 10th European Development Fund (EDF) is to devote almost EUR 300 million to Chad for the period 2008-2013.

In the Central African Republic, the Accompanying Programme for the North-Eastern CAR launched its first activities in November 2008, and the 10th EDF provides for EUR 137 million for the CAR for the period 2008-2013.

## First assessment of the operation

### ***EUFOR has improved the level of security in its area of activity***

To secure the area, EUFOR carried out a large number of patrols (more than 2000 short range patrols and over 440 long range) and large-scale operations in areas where it did not have permanent camps. The presence of Russian helicopters (since December 2008) has increased the mobility of the force. Around 500 air missions have been carried out.

In addition, EUFOR's activities included the disposal of around 350 unexploded items of ordnance, abandoned war debris, thereby literally saving lives and limbs. Similarly, while medical care for the local population was not its primary task, EUFOR's assistance included over 3000 local medical consultations and 65 local surgical interventions which played a key role in demonstrating EUFOR's goodwill and concern for the local community.



EU HR Javier Solana visiting Chad, May 2008

By helping to raise the overall level of security, EUFOR enabled MINURCAT to become operational over the whole area of action. For example, EUFOR has escorted United Nations convoys and carrying out operations around secure sites where MINURCAT is being deployed, to help it get established.

The improvement in the security situation, and the action undertaken to provide assistance and reconstruct return zones for displaced persons, have allowed the voluntary return of at least 10 000 people in 22 villages.

### ***EUFOR has facilitated humanitarian assistance***

The security provided by EUFOR has helped the work of humanitarian organisations, with which EUFOR regularly coordinates its activity.

The humanitarian assistance provided by the European Commission (ECHO programme) to refugees, displaced persons and host communities in Chad amounted to EUR 30 million in 2008. ECHO's activity includes the fields of healthcare and water treatment, food aid and food security, protection, emergency shelters and education. The humanitarian effort also includes the CAR, where more than 200 000 people have been directly helped in 2007-2008.

## **The European Union's continuing commitment**

EUFOR'S mandate has ended, but the European Union remains fully committed in Chad and the CAR. A number of Member States and third countries will remain on the ground in the MINURCAT framework (Ireland, Austria, Finland, Poland, France, Albania, Croatia and Russia). Around 2000 men serving under EUFOR came under the MINURCAT banner.

Moreover, the EU will remain active at a political and diplomatic level in Chad, in the Central African Republic and especially in Sudan, where the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur peace process is crucial to the stabilisation of the region. The EU is committed to a political solution to the Darfur conflict and to an improvement of the relations between Chad and Sudan, particularly through the activities of the EU Special Representative for Sudan.

Despite the end of the EUFOR operation, the European Union's assistance to Chad and Central African Republic will continue.

*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>*