

## COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

### EU Police Mission for the DRC (EUPOL RD Congo)

Updated: April 2011  
EUPOL RDC/14

#### Background

In December 2006, the Democratic Republic of the Congo held its first democratic elections since gaining independence. The European Union played a major role in making this electoral process secure and continues to be fully committed to the Congolese people with a view to consolidating the rule of law, security and stability in the DRC.

The EUPOL RD Congo mission, which followed on from the EUPOL Kinshasa mission (the EU's first police mission in Africa, which ran from February 2005 to June 2007) reflects this ongoing commitment.

Launched in July 2007, the mandate of EUPOL RD Congo was recently extended for a year, until 30 September 2011. Since June 2005, a second Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission, EUSEC RD Congo, has been providing expertise to assist with reform of the defence sector in the DRC.



Advice and assistance to the reform of the police and its justice interface.

#### FACTS AND FIGURES

**Place:** Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Headquarters:** Kinshasa

**Starting date:** 1 July 2007

**End of mandate:** 30 September 2011

**Head of mission:** Superintendent

Jean-Paul Rikir

**Personnel :** 38 international and 19 local staff (situation at 11 April 2011).

**Contributing states:** 8 EU member states



[www.eupol-rdc.eu](http://www.eupol-rdc.eu)

[www.consilium.europa.eu/eupol-rdcongo](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eupol-rdcongo)

#### Mandate and objectives

Made up of 38 international experts, the mission's members include police experts, criminal justice experts and experts in the cross-cutting aspects of security sector reform (SSR): in particular it has joint expertise with EUSEC RD Congo in the fields of human rights, children associated with armed forces or armed groups, gender equality and the fight against sexual violence and impunity.

The EUPOL RD Congo mission supports the reform of the security sector in the field of the police and its interaction with the justice system. Its purpose is to contribute to the restructuring of the Congolese police by supporting the establishment of a police force that is viable, professional and multi-ethnic/integrated. The mission also aims to help improve the interaction between the police and the criminal justice system in general. The mission cooperates closely with the EUSEC RD Congo mission, the European Union delegation in the DRC and the United Nations Mission there (MONUC) to help ensure overall consistency of the SSR efforts deployed.

In the framework of the reform and restructuring of the police sector in the DRC, the EUPOL RD Congo mission provides advice and assistance to the competent Congolese authorities directly, above all

through the police reform monitoring committee (Comité de Suivi de la Réforme de la Police, CSRP). The CSRP was approved by the Minister of the Interior as the "single framework" for the reform of the police. As a joint consultative body, the CSRP brings together not only the ministries concerned by the reform and the Congolese national police (PNC) but also the international partners working in this field.

Since its official inauguration on 14 February 2008 by the Minister of the Interior, the CSRP and its working parties have been operating on a daily basis thanks to the assistance provided by the EUPOL RDC mission, among others. One of the first challenges for the CSRP was to draw up a Strategic Framework and an Action Plan for the reform of the police and to include the projects of the various international donors in order to ensure the consistency of the process. This task was completed in March 2009 and the Strategic Framework and Action Plan were presented to Parliament by the Minister of the Interior and Security in November 2009. Along with the draft Organic Law on the organisation and functioning of the Congolese police, they are currently at the National Parliament awaiting approval and promulgation by the President of the Republic.

By means of its justice interface, the EUPOL RD Congo mission is seeking to unite the police and the judiciary in the reform process. EUPOL RD Congo has also made its expertise available to the General Audit Inspectorate. Created in September 2008, this body deals with any criminal, administrative or financial offences committed by the police and comes under the direct responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior. It plays a key role in the consolidation of the police in a State based on the rule of law.

To help the Congolese authorities take ownership of the police reform process, the EUPOL RD Congo mission is providing assistance in training the criminal police and the search and intervention units and in developing a technical and forensic police force within the Congolese National Police thanks to support from other bilateral EU actors. It is also supporting the PNC in introducing the concept of proximity policing and in strengthening the technical capabilities of the PNC, notably by drafting and distributing documentation on standard procedures and practical methodology for police officers (such as a judicial police handbook and an administrative police guide), and by training instructors and police officers in various specific fields of action.

Finally, in order to contribute to the stabilisation process in the east of the country as regards policing, gender equality, human rights and child protection, the EUPOL RD Congo mission also has a team in Goma, in the province of North Kivu.

**Since 1 November 2009, the mission has had its mandate strengthened in the field of combating sexual violence and impunity.** To that end, a multidisciplinary team specialising in this field of action was deployed in Goma in February 2010.



The European Union's **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** 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.

Based in Brussels, the **Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC)** is the permanent structure responsible for an autonomous operational conduct of civilian ESDP operations. Under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the High Representative, the CPCC ensures the effective planning and conduct of civilian ESDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.

**More information and background documents available on:**  
[www.consilium.europa.eu/csdp](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/csdp) and [eeas.europa.eu](http://eeas.europa.eu)