

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EU Police Mission for the DRC (EUPOL RD Congo)

Updated: February 2012

Background

In December 2006, the Democratic Republic of the Congo held its first democratic elections since gaining independence in 1960. 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 EUPOL Kinshasa, 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 has been recently extended until September 2012. Since June 2005, a second Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission, EUSEC RD Congo, has been providing expertise in the reform of the defence sector in the DRC.

MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

Place: Democratic Republic of the Congo
Headquarters: Kinshasa
Starting date: 1 July 2007
End of mandate : 30 September 2012
Head of Mission: Commissaire Divisionnaire Jean-Paul Rikir
Personnel: 50 international staff
Contributing States: 8 EU Member States



www.eupol-rdc.eu

www.consilium.europa.eu/eupol-rdcongo

Mandate and objectives

Made up of 50 international experts, the mission's members include police experts, criminal justice experts and experts in the cross-cutting aspects of Security Sector Reform (SSR): human rights, dialogue with civil society, protection of children in armed conflicts, gender equality and the fight against impunity and sexual violence.

The EUPOL RD Congo mission supports SSR 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 civilian, professional and respectful of human rights. The mission also aims to help improving the interaction between the police and the criminal justice system, thus contributing to the fight against the impunity of sexual violence and human rights abuses. The mission cooperates closely with the EUSEC RD Congo, the European Union delegation in DRC and the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) in its efforts to help ensure that all SSR efforts deployed are consistent.

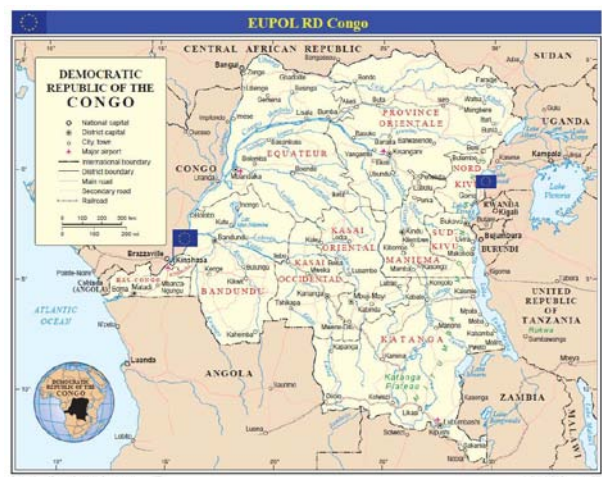
In the framework of the reform and restructuring process of the police sector in the DRC, EUPOL RD Congo assists the competent Congolese authorities, mainly through its support to three institutions: the Police Reform Monitoring Committee (CSRP), the General Inspection of the Congolese police (IG-PNC) and the General Commissariat of the Congolese police (CG-PNC).

As a joint consultative body, the CSRP brings together not only the ministries concerned by the reform, but also experts from the Congolese police, the Congolese civil society and international partners working in this field, among which EUPOL RD Congo. One of the first challenges for the CSRP was to draw up a Strategic Framework for Police Reform with its Action Plan, where it included the projects of the various international donors in order to ensure the consistency of the process. This institution also played a key role in the creation of the organic law on the organisation and functioning of the Congolese police, promulgated in August 2011.

Together with other international partners, EUPOL RD Congo provides strategic advice to the General Commissariat of the Congolese Police in conceiving a structure responsible for implementing police reform. In this context, the mission actively contributes to the ongoing efforts to create the General Directorate of Schools and Training within the Congolese Police. EUPOL RD Congo also assists the General Inspection of the Congolese Police. Created in June 2007, this inspection and audit body covers any criminal, administrative or financial offences committed by the police. It plays a key role in the accountability of the police in a state based on the rule of law.

In order to strengthen the operational capacities of the Congolese police, EUPOL RD Congo contributes to the training of trainers and police officers of the PNC, with a particular focus on aspects related to Human Rights. The mission has provided technical assistance to three European projects (EU Delegation in DRC, France and the United Kingdom) designed to support the security of the 2011 elections in DRC. These projects, which were implemented in the second semester of 2011, had two main objectives: on the one hand, to train four crowd control units in Kinshasa on the use of modern and professional intervention techniques that fully comply with international standards; on the other hand, to raise awareness among civilian population and police officers alike through a national campaign led by the General Inspection of the Congolese police. EUPOL RD Congo is also assisting the Congolese police in the implementation of the “Proximity Police” concept, together with other European and Congolese partners such as Belgium, the United Kingdom and the Congolese Civil Society. The mission contributes to the training of the police officers that will be integrated in the “Reference Police Station” of Kinshasa, a pilot project in this field.

By means of its justice interface, EUPOL RD Congo is seeking to improve the coordination between the police and judicial fields in the reform process, thus contributing to the fight against impunity. The support and training given to the Judiciary Police and to the Technical and Scientific Police provide these units with the proper know-how to conduct criminal investigations in a professional manner and liaise with the judicial actors. In order to contribute to the stabilisation process in Eastern DRC, particularly in the areas of human rights, gender equality and protection of children in armed conflicts, the mission also has an office in the province of North-Kivu. A multidisciplinary team composed of three female experts (one police expert, one justice expert and one civilian expert) and specialised in fighting sexual violence and impunity is deployed in Goma, the provincial capital, since February 2010. This team collaborates with other international partners such as the German bilateral cooperation (GIZ), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and MONUSCO in training and raising awareness among police officers, justice and civil society experts.



*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 CSDP 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 CSDP 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 CSDP 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 CSDP 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 and eeas.europa.eu