

Common Security and Defence Policy

The EUCAP Sahel Niger civilian mission

Updated: September 2014

The crisis in Mali, instability in Libya and Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria are all threatening Niger's security and development. In addition, the country is faced with the illegal trafficking of drugs, weapons and people on its territory. Some of this organised crime serves to fund terrorist groups which are using Niger's vast desert regions as trafficking routes or safe havens. This combination of threats makes it all the more vital that Niger should have a well-functioning security sector.

The current instability in the Sahel and the cross-border nature of the security threats confirm the relevance of the regional approach taken in the European Union strategy for security and development in the Sahel region, adopted in March 2011. EUCAP Sahel Niger, the CSDP civilian mission launched at the request of Niger's government in the summer of 2012, is an important element of this EU strategy and complements other European instruments for development and stability.



The mission's mandate

EUCAP Sahel Niger contributes to the development of an integrated, coherent, sustainable, and human rights-based approach among the various Nigerien security agencies in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.

The mission gives advice and training to support the Nigerien authorities' efforts to strengthen their security capabilities. More than 50 international experts, the majority of whom are from European security forces and justice departments, are permanently deployed in Niamey.

In July 2014, the Council of the European Union decided to extend the EUCAP mission's mandate by a further two years. The mission objectives have been updated on the basis of experience gained in the first two years. During the current mandate, EUCAP will increase its assistance to Niger's regions,

FACTS AND FIGURES

Country: Republic of Niger
Headquarters: Niamey
Mission start date: 8 August 2012
End date of the second mandate: 15 July 2016
Head of Mission: Filip De Ceuninck
Mission strength: The mission has a total of 91 staff (56 international experts and 36 local staff)
Contributing states: 11 Member States of the European Union
Mission budget: EUR 9.16 million for the period 16 July 2014 to 15 July 2015



in particular the northern Agadez region which is facing the highest number of security threats. EUCAP Sahel Niger will also increase its cooperation with nearby CSDP missions, namely EUBAM Libya and the newly-established EUCAP Sahel Mali.

Mission objectives

1. Help Niger's security forces achieve interoperability and develop their operating strategies.
2. Strengthen the Nigerien security sector's expertise in combating terrorism and organised crime.
3. Improve the human resources, training and logistics management policies to ensure that the achievements made under objectives 1 and 2 can be sustained.
4. Support the development of regional and international coordination in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.



Action and outcomes

In carrying out its mandate, EUCAP Sahel Niger is focusing on several areas: improving the efficiency of the regional mixed command posts to allow a better response to crises and the interoperability of security forces; collecting and sharing intelligence between those forces; developing forensic science expertise; training the municipal police in the region of Agadez; reviewing HR management systems; improving teaching capacity at the security forces' training centres; and ensuring that the armed forces act on a sound legal basis in their mission to combat terrorism and trafficking. EUCAP Sahel Niger's experts have trained more than 3000 members of the country's internal security forces, armed forces and judiciary. The emphasis is on training trainers, so that the knowledge and skills acquired can be sustained. The mission is also working to upgrade and refurbish the security and armed forces' training centres and vehicle maintenance workshops.

In addition, EUCAP has become the secretariat for international coordination in the security sector in Niger. As such, it helps to coordinate all international assistance and donations to Nigerien security forces. To strengthen cooperation, the mission runs joint activities with other EU programmes as well as other international partners working in Niger.



*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 capabilities 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 the 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 effective planning and conduct of civilian CSDP crisis management operations, as well as proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.*

More information and background documents available at <http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp> and <http://eeas.europa.eu>