



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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PRESSE 55

## **EU military operation in the Central African Republic established**

The Council today established an EU military operation to contribute to a secure environment in the Central African Republic, as authorised by the UN Security Council in resolution 2134 (2014). Today's decision creates the legal basis for the operation entitled EUFOR RCA and is another step towards its rapid deployment.

EUFOR RCA is to provide temporary support in achieving a safe and secure environment in the Bangui area, with a view to handing over to African partners. The force will thereby contribute to international efforts to protect the populations most at risk, creating the conditions for providing humanitarian aid.

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton, said: *"We have reacted swiftly to the serious crisis in the Central African Republic. We are using all the tools at our disposal, from humanitarian assistance to political support for the transition, to our long-term development cooperation. But the absolute priority is to protect the civilian population from any further violence, to ensure that the people of the Central African Republic can live without fear and start rebuilding their country, and to make sure that humanitarian aid can be provided. EUFOR RCA will deploy as soon as possible to back the remarkable efforts of France and our African partners."*

# **P R E S S**

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The Council also appointed Major-General Philippe Pontières from France as EU Operation Commander. Besides, it estimated the common costs of the operation at € 25.9 million for a period of up to nine months comprising a three months preparatory phase and a mandate of up to six months starting from the point of reaching full operational capability.

The operation headquarters will be in Larissa, Greece, while the force headquarters and the troops will be located in Bangui, Central African Republic.

Preparations for the deployment are currently under way, following accelerated procedures. The launch of operations will require a separate legal act.

More information:

[Council conclusions on the Central African Republic of 20 January](#)  
[Factsheet on the Central African Republic](#)

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