



Council of the  
European Union

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#### **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Central African Republic - Council conclusions (15 October 2018)

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Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on the Central African Republic adopted at the 3643rd meeting of the Council on 15 October 2018.

**Council conclusions on the Central African Republic**

1. The situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) is still very fragile and the EU remains engaged in support of the country. Two years after the Brussels international donors' conference, the European Union (EU) emphasises the need to continue working, through its various instruments, to help the CAR get back on the road to stability, peace and development and to meet the aspirations of the Central African people as a whole for lasting peace and reconciliation.
2. Our road map still consists of the consolidation of democratic institutions and security sector reform, the fight against impunity and the establishment of transitional justice, the restoration of the rule of law and of social cohesion, governance, the provision of basic services and the restarting of the economy, and the legal and sustainable use of natural resources. The EU welcomes the efforts made by President Touadéra and his government in these areas and urges them to continue in this direction with greater determination.

3. The EU reiterates its support for the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation under the auspices of the African Union and the Community of Central African States, with the participation of Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Sudan and Chad, and under the leadership of President Touadéra, to reach a peace and reconciliation agreement, to create the conditions for the complete disarmament of armed groups and to strengthen State authority, while preserving the unity and integrity of the CAR. The EU stresses the need to make rapid progress towards the next stages in this peace and reconciliation process. It also points out the importance of the inclusive involvement of all institutions and all actors in Central African society, including women, young people and civil society, in order to contribute to lasting reconciliation in the country. The EU calls on all international actors, especially those engaged in the CAR, to support exclusively the action of the government and the African Initiative, in a properly coordinated and fully transparent manner.
4. The EU welcomes the trials which have opened at the Bangui Criminal Court and the gradual operationalisation of the Special Criminal Court, and hopes that its first prosecutions will be brought very soon. This is an essential step in the fight against impunity and the EU will continue to support this initiative. At the same time, there is a need to make progress on the achievement of transitional justice, by setting up a Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission, which must be linked to the peace process to guarantee reconciliation. The EU also calls for the civilian population to be fully involved in efforts to secure peace and reconciliation in order to meet Central Africans' concrete expectations.

5. The EU welcomes the commitment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), in particular to support the Central African authorities in carrying out the security sector reform process, to help them restore State authority and to support the fight against impunity, including through operationalisation of the Special Criminal Court. The EU also welcomes the Security Council's willingness to consider possible support for gradual, controlled redeployment of the security forces. The EU reiterates its support for MINUSCA and for reinforcing the mission; it expects all actors working to stabilise the Central African Republic to coordinate closely with its activities.
6. The EU will continue coordination with the United Nations, the African Union and other international partners. It is ready to develop a framework for joint engagement in the Central African Republic with the United Nations and the African Union.
7. In July the Council approved an extension of the EUTM RCA mandate until September 2020 in order to contribute to reform of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA), as part of the EU's integrated approach in the CAR. The Council welcomes the EUTM's successful training of the FACA third battalion and recognises the importance of the EU's work in support of the FACA. It emphasises the EUTM's leading role in training the FACA and the need for the mission to be able to work unhindered with the FACA in order to fulfil its mandate. Lastly, it points out the importance of the EUTM's activities in facilitating redeployment of the FACA and implementation of the national defence plan in Bouar. This is a priority which must be implemented as soon as possible, while bearing in mind the local security situation.

8. The Council emphasises that the security situation, including hybrid threats, confirms the need to continue to strengthen the FACA, and welcomes the request by the CAR authorities to the EU for additional assistance for the CAR Internal Security Forces. The Council recognises the appropriateness of meeting that request by means of civilian engagement commensurate with the challenges. It invites the European External Action Service to continue its operational planning with a view to establishing and deploying as soon as possible a dedicated interoperability pillar within EUTM RCA tasked with providing strategic advice in this area. The Council also recognises the usefulness, highlighted by the strategic review of EUTM RCA, of continuing to assess the appropriateness of reinforcing the European Union's action in relation to the Internal Security Forces with dedicated civilian CSDP action. The Council will return to this issue in the summer of 2019, on the basis of proposals from the EEAS, taking account of the initial results of the interoperability pillar and in the context of the strategic review of EUTM RCA. The Council welcomes the launch of projects for the reinforcement of the CAR forces by the EU as part of the European initiative for capacity building in support of security and development (CBSD); additional financing solutions will need to be found to meet certain needs, in terms of equipment and infrastructure, resulting from the training provision. Lastly, the Council reaffirms the importance of coordinating with the international community, and in particular with MINUSCA as regards the security sector reform process in the interests of complementarity, any action relating to support for the CAR security forces.

9. The EU remains concerned by the humanitarian situation in the CAR, in particular as regards displaced and enclaved persons, women and children, who continue to be the main victims of the crisis and suffer from insecurity and violence. The EU emphasises the need for the international community to mobilise in response to the humanitarian emergency, and reiterates its own continuous engagement and its neutral and impartial humanitarian efforts. It calls on all parties to guarantee humanitarian agencies and their staff safe, timely and unhindered access to all areas, in full compliance with the UN's guiding principles on humanitarian assistance and international humanitarian law, in order to enable them to deliver humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable groups in the population. The EU calls for full respect for human rights, and calls on the government of the Central African Republic to systematically condemn attacks on humanitarian workers.

The EU also emphasises the importance of providing refugees from the CAR in neighbouring countries with adequate assistance which is appropriate in view of their long-term displacement, as well as support for their host communities.

10. The EU would recall its continuous engagement since the beginning of the crisis, and via the Bêkou Trust Fund, to strengthen the resilience of the population and of the State in the CAR, fully applying the linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD) approach and the humanitarian-development nexus. The Council welcomes the progress made possible by the Bêkou Trust Fund for the reconstruction of the CAR and calls for consideration to be given to its future.

11. The EU calls for additional support from the international community, including for the most vulnerable groups, in particular in order to strengthen their resilience and to resume, as soon as possible, the development projects on which the future of the country depends, including quick-impact projects. In this regard, support for the mobilisation by the CAR of its own fiscal resources and continued budgetary support, both international and European, remain indispensable for the development of the country. The EU remains strongly committed to the CAR, with an envelope of EUR 487 million allocated for the period 2017-2020.
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