



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## **Council Conclusions on Chad**

*2851st EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting  
Brussels, 18 February 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. "The Council firmly condemns the renewed attacks of armed groups against the government of Chad. The Council calls on all Chadian parties to unconditionally renounce the use of force and engage in a constructive dialogue aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the current situation. The Council supports the initiative taken by the African Union to engage the parties to end fighting and its efforts aimed at seeking a lasting solution to the crisis.
2. The Council expresses its deep concern regarding the regional ramifications of the conflict in Darfur and attempts of overthrowing the Chadian government and fully backs the African Union and the United Nations' call for the respect of the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of Chad. In order to de-escalate the current confrontation the Council calls on the governments of Sudan and Chad to immediately stop supporting and equipping armed groups and to improve their relations. It calls on the countries of the region to contribute to good neighbourhood relations and improve their cooperation.
3. The Council notes the decision of the Chadian authorities to declare a state of emergency. It will closely monitor the respect of civil rights and liberties and the fundamental principles of the rule of law in this context and expects them to be fully respected. The Council would like to recall its full support to the 13 August 2007 Political Agreement set up with almost all political parties belonging to the legal opposition. The Council considers this agreement, sponsored by the European Union, as the cornerstone of a broader road map leading to legislative elections in 2009. Therefore, it welcomes the efforts provided by the international community, to which the European Union has contributed, to help implementing this Political Agreement, with regard to the civil and electoral census as well as the promotion of democratic freedom and freedom of speech. The Council calls upon Chadian authorities to

# **P R E S S**

keep supporting this process and re-establish confidence with the political parties of the legal opposition and civil society with the aim of strengthening democracy in Chad. The Council calls on all parties to the agreement to renew dialogue and to start working in the framework of the "follow-up committee" of the agreement. The Council expresses its deep concern over the arrest of members of the unarmed political opposition in Chad, including Mr. Lol Mahamat Choua. The Council calls on President Deby to show restraint and immediately release these detainees.

4. The Council emphasises the urgent need to protect civilians and improve the humanitarian situation in the whole region. The Council reaffirms its full commitment to contribute to the implementation of UNSCR 1778 (2007) which authorises the deployment in Chad and the Central African Republic of a multidimensional presence, the military element of which will be provided by the EU. In accordance with this resolution, the EU conducts this military EU bridging operation for a period of 12 months from the declaration of initial operational capability. The situation on the ground will be constantly assessed by the competent Council bodies and the Operation Commander. In the light of the recent events the need for the deployment of EUFOR Tchad/RCA and MINURCAT to contribute to the required security in Eastern Chad has been underscored. EUFOR's mandate is to contribute to the protection of civilians in danger, particularly displaced persons and refugees, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel and to contribute to the protection of UN personnel, facilities, installations and equipment. In observance of its mandate EUFOR Tchad/RCA will act in an impartial, neutral and independent manner. Regarding systematic mainstreaming of human rights, gender issues and protection of children in armed conflicts, the Council recalls its conclusions of 28 January 2008. The Council welcomes the contribution of the European Commission to provide financial support to MINURCAT and to deliver humanitarian aid to the people in need, to support the reconciliation process and to contribute to the rehabilitation of conflict-affected areas.
5. The Council strongly condemns the attacks by the Sudanese forces against three villages of Western Darfur that took place on 8 February. The Council is deeply concerned by the information from UNAMID and OCHA on the number of deaths and casualties among the civilians. The Council further condemns the military activities of the rebel movements in Western Darfur. The Council calls upon all the parties to commit to an immediate cessation of hostilities. The consequences of this attack for Eastern Chad, with the arrival of more than 10000 new refugees near Guereda, underlines the urgent need to upgrade international efforts to secure refugees and IDPs with the deployment of EUFOR and MINURCAT as well as full deployment of UNAMID in Darfur.
6. The Council stresses the importance of the international community acting and pronouncing itself in a coordinated and concerted manner. The deployment of EUFOR Tchad/RCA is a major EU contribution, which together with the UN mission MINURCAT in Chad and Central African Republic and in coordination with the Hybrid AU/UN mission UNAMID in Darfur helps to address the conflict in the region and its effects on the humanitarian situation. In this context, the Council urged the Government of Sudan to facilitate a speedy deployment of UNAMID. Efforts to generate stability and create a proper security environment will be

## **P R E S S**

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conducive for negotiations. The Council will continue its close cooperation and coordination with all actors involved, in particular with the UN and the AU."

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# **P R E S S**

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