

International Conference

## The EU's support for peace in Chad and Sudan - Staying involved

11 March 2010

### Background

With regard to the influence of external actors on President Déby the engagement of European governments, the European Council and Commission and Members of the EU Parliament towards a distinctly political approach in Chad is essential to address the root causes of Chadian conflict and to create pressure on the N'Djaména regime of President Déby. On the eve of the withdrawal of MINURCAT whose mandate expires on 15 March and before the April elections in Sudan Group Chad invites to a conference in order to discuss the level of political and development intervention in Chad with EU representatives. As for the ongoing support of the armed opposition along the Sudano-Chadian border from both Khartoum and N'Djaména the review looks at the progress regarding the implementation of the Tripolis and Syrte agreements, the 2006 bilateral Security Protocol, and the recommendations of the UN Panel of Experts Monitoring the Darfur Arms Embargo.

<b>Conference Venue</b>	Bread for the World Office, Rue Joseph II, 166 – Brussels
<b>Coordination</b>	Claudia Frank, Group Chad, Chausseestraße 128/129, D-10115 Berlin, Germany Phone +49 30 30 87 44 58 mail to frank@ag-tschad.org
<b>Conference Language</b>	English



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International Conference  
**The EU's support for peace in Chad and Sudan - Staying involved**  
11 March 2010, Brussels

**Preliminary Programme**

8:30 Registration

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**9:00-10:15 Panel 1 – The regional dimension of the conflicts in Chad and Sudan: From a comprehensive to a distinct political approach**

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*Welcome and opening*

Josh Maiyo, emcee

*Keynote Speaker*

Arno Schaefer, European Commission, DG Europe Aid Cooperation, Head of Sector Central Africa

*Speakers*

Delphine Kemneloum Djiraibé, Comité de Suivi de l'Appel à la Paix et à la Réconciliation

Lena Guesnet, Bonn International Center for Conversion

Andrea Koulimah, European Commission, ECHO Central Africa, Sudan, Chad, Head of Unit

*Facilitator*

Neil Campbell, International Crisis Group

*... the European Union will remain active at a political and diplomatic level in Chad, in the Central African Republic and especially in Sudan, where the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur peace process is crucial to the stabilization of the region. The EU will also continue to be active in the region in the field of humanitarian and development activities. (European Council, 16/03/2009)*

Assuming that a lasting peace in Darfur and an efficient peace policy on Chad are intertwined, a distinct political engagement and a coherent European policy must therefore take into account a regional perspective and needs to be more coordinated. Will the new EU structure for external affairs reinforce the role of the European Union Special Representative on Sudan? Did the EUFOR experience create more political will among EU member states and institutions for an increased and coherent engagement in the political impasse in Chad?

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10:30-10:45 Coffee break

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**10:30-11:45 Panel 2 – Supporting good governance and the establishment of a democratic environment in Chad – Good intentions lacking political backing?**

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*Keynote speaker*

Manuel Lopez Blanco, European Commission, DG Development, Director D. ACP II – West and Central Africa

*Speakers*

Vincent Neussl, Misereor

Wolfgang Wiethoff, Federal Foreign Office, Central Africa Department

Dorothee Starck, European Commission, DG Development, Governance Team, Policy Officer

*Facilitator*

Frank Hofmann, Deutsche Welle

The SG's October report to the Security Council on MINURCAT states the lack of progress on broader governance reforms. If the demilitarization of the administration, the reform of the judiciary and armed forces are not implemented as agreed upon in Chapter 4 of the agreement of 13 August, the 2010 elections risk being a mere spectacle legitimizing President Déby once more.

Via the European Development Fund the European Commission has joined the sector priorities set for Chad by an important budget. How can the EDF 2007 - 2013 priorities contribute to an inclusive peace process? What part does the Chadian Civil Society play in the EU's strategy? How to strengthen the position of the EU Delegation by all EU member countries for it can assume a political and credible role like it did when negotiating the agreement of August 13?

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11:45-12:00 Coffee break

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12:00-13:15 **Panel 3 - Provision of arms to rebel groups in Sudan - expanding the EU's arms embargo on Chad?**

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*Keynote speaker*

David Huxford, former member of UN panel of experts monitoring the Darfur arms embargo

*Speakers*

Nicolas Vercken, Oxfam France

Virginie Moreau, Groupe de Recherche et d'Information sur la Paix et la Sécurité

*Facilitator*

Pieter Wezeman, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

The fact that arms provided to the Chadian government may find their way into neighboring Darfur has been repeatedly documented by the UN panel of experts for the monitoring of the Darfur embargo, SIPRI and the Small Arms Survey. EU member states don't seem to consider how their arms export to Chad could affect multinational peacekeeping forces in Chad and the national and regional peace processes. The EU Code of Conduct would allow for a common position on arms exports to the Chadian Government. So far, there have been no mechanisms developed to exchange regularly on specific export countries and to put the Common Position/EU Code of Conduct into practice.

Starting with the main findings and recommendations of the UN panel of experts the discussion will then link the current situation and the action needed to take on EU level given the context of still alarming insecurity in Eastern Chad and the unresolved conflict in Darfur.

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13:30-15:00 Lunch / End of conference

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15:00 **Press Conference**

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