

EU mobilises the international community for Africa's Sahel region

The International High Level Conference on the Sahel, co-chaired today by the European Union, the United Nations, the African Union and the G5 Sahel group of countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger), has mobilised political support for the Sahel region, **€414 million** to support the Joint security Force of the G5 Sahel whilst reinforcing the coordination of sustainable development efforts in the region.

On the occasion, President Jean-Claude **Juncker** said: *“Instability has many factors so our response must be linked and ambitious. Security and development must go hand in hand. To do so, we must continue to mobilise all the instruments we have at our disposal. The EU has doubled its support to €100 million to reinforce the operationalisation of the G5 Sahel Joint Force and I am proud that all our friends and partners of the Sahel joined us in these efforts.”*

Key outcomes of the High Level Conference:

- **Reinforced political support to the region:** A [Joint Communiqué](#) was adopted, reaffirming support to assist the G5 countries in bringing greater stability to the region. Important support was given to the Mali peace process: those that threaten the process can face sanctions.
- **Increased financial assistance for security:** the EU doubled its funding to the G5 Sahel Joint Force to €100 million, which aims to improve regional security and fight terrorism. The EU and its Member States together contributed to half of the international support of the Joint Force. This new funding fully meets the needs of the Joint Force and gives it the means to improve security conditions in the region.
- **Better coordination of development efforts:** with €8 billion in development aid over 2014-2020, the EU is the biggest donor to the G5 Sahel countries. The EU will play a leading role in the Alliance for the Sahel launched in July 2017. This new initiative aims to coordinate and deliver aid quicker and more efficiently in the most fragile regions and is open to all the partners of the international community.

Background

The EU uses all its tools to support development efforts in the region, notably the [‘EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa’](#) under which **€843 million** has been committed so far. The EU is also a member and key supporter of the newly formed **Alliance for the Sahel**, set up recently to coordinate existing EU and Member States development assistance better and faster in the region.

In 2014, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger set up the “G5 Sahel” group of countries to foster close cooperation in the region and

tackle the major challenges that these countries face – from extreme poverty, terrorism or trafficking of human beings, which has potential spill-over effects outside the region. Since then, the EU has stepped up cooperation with this African-led initiative to build a strong partnership on many fronts: from political dialogue, to development and humanitarian support, to strengthening security and tackling irregular migration.

The EU is itself a key security player in the region, with its 3 active Common Security and Defence Policy missions: [EUCAP Sahel Niger](#), [EUCAP Sahel Mali](#), [EU training mission \(EUTM\) in Mali](#).

Useful Links

[Joint Communiqué by the European Union, the G5 Sahel, the African Union and the United Nations](#)

[Opening speech by President Jean-Claude Juncker](#)

[Remarks \(doorstep\) by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini](#)

[Opening remarks by the 4 co-chairs of the Conference \(EbS\)](#)

[Factsheet 'The EU's partnership with the Sahel'](#)

[Factsheet \(Q&A\) 'The European Union's partnership with the G5 Sahel countries'](#)

[Photos of the Conference](#)