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[Press release](#) | 20.11.2012

## Mali

### EU military mission must focus on human rights

Commenting on the recent resurgence of fighting in North Mali between Touareg-led and Islamist groups this weekend and the announcement yesterday by EU foreign ministers of a planned EU military mission to Mali, Greens/EFA foreign affairs spokesperson **Franziska Brantner** stated:

*"Any military training mission will be futile without a successful political transition in Mali and a political answer to the independence movements in the North. The EU needs to make sure that an official framework for negotiations is created before deploying EUTM Mali in early 2013.*

*"With all the eagerness to get a training mission off the ground, the EU and its member states must not forget that a military force, which would violate human rights while freeing the country, would defeat the political purpose of the mission. There is therefore a need to make human rights training a mandatory part of the military training, as well as to define the respect for human rights by the trained troops of the EUTM as an objective of the mission.*

"Regardless, it is clear that training the troops inside Mali carries significant risks for escalation that could be reduced by training them outside the country."

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