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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.11.2025)

The EU Rapid Deployment Capacity (RDC) framework allows for the deployment of up to 5 000 troops, consisting of modified EU Battlegroups on stand-by, as well as of Member States' additional forces and capabilities, including land, air, maritime, space and cyber components. The Military Planning and Conduct Capability is the preferred EU command and control structure for the EU RDC.

Regular live exercises involving EU Battlegroups and Member States' additional forces play a vital role in enhancing preparedness, improving interoperability, and testing the capacity under realistic scenarios. The EU has so far held live exercises in Spain, Germany and Hungary¹.

The deployment of the EU RDC, as is the case for all EU military missions and operations, requires a unanimous decision of Member States. Any possible future modifications of the RDC are also subject to a unanimous decision by Member States.

The EU RDC can be deployed in a swift and flexible manner, enabling the EU to respond to various crises outside its borders. The EU RDC is designed for carrying out/contributing to a variety of missions, such as: stabilisation; rescue and evacuation; humanitarian assistance and disaster relief; peace enforcement; conflict prevention and capacity building.

Austria participates in the RDC along with other Member States, including by taking part in the military live exercises, and contributing to the EU Battlegroups.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/milex-25_en.