

**Question for written answer E-001286/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Mariya Gabriel (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Latest developments and the EU's strategy in the Great Lakes region in Africa

Unfortunately, what has been feared and warned about for years is now happening in the Great Lakes region. Elections in Burundi were expected as the first positive signal for the region in a new electoral cycle. These elections have produced the terrible and still worsening crisis that we know, with a critical impact on the region from a humanitarian and security point of view as well as from a political and symbolic perspective. Provincial elections have been postponed several times in the Democratic Republic of Congo, delaying the whole electoral calendar; constitutional changes in Rwanda have been made, allowing the President to run for further mandates.

What additional efforts have been made by the EU to help to prevent the spread of electoral violence in countries of the Great Lakes region ahead of future elections, and to prevent this very fragile region from becoming a flashpoint?

What political message is currently being put across by the EU to the DRC authorities in order to prevent a repetition of the Burundian scenario?

Is the EU relying on the African Union to provide an exit plan for the Burundian crisis?