**Margot Parker,** *on behalf of the EFDD Group***.** – Mr President, Burundi teeters on the edge. A return to the barbarity of the civil war must be avoided. Instability in Burundi risks spreading to the immediate neighbourhood, especially with repeated attacks in bordering Rwanda, originating from within the country.

However, there are no easy solutions. Human history has shown that, of all systems man has devised, democracy offers the greatest wealth and security for all. It is imperative that Burundi continues to develop a thriving democracy, despite the actions of the President in extending his term and modifying the country’s constitution to allow him to retain powers into the 2030s, after a referendum that may not have been conducted freely.

His commitment not to seek another term beyond this one is helpful. The decision is not quite a resolution to the issue, but it looks to be moving in the right direction and, hopefully, we will begin to move away from the instability that has plagued Burundi since 2015.