

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1602/07
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to the Commission

Subject: Revision of DRC's mining contracts

The DRC's mineral resources have been tied up for decades to come by extremely unfavourable mining contracts. A complete lack of transparency surrounded their negotiation and approval. However, a fair division of the benefits from mining is essential for the reconstruction and development of the country.

The EU is the largest donor to the DRC's new democratically elected government. Given the relevance of mining revenues for development, and given the Commission's prominent membership of CIAT, the EU could and should play a more prominent role in pushing for a review of past mining contracts and assisting in the renegotiating process.

1. Is the Commission prepared to push for transparency and review/renegotiation of past mining contracts with the DRC Government and other relevant actors?
2. Is the Commission prepared to financially and technically support the instalment of a working group, composed of Congolese and international experts, in order to revise mining contracts signed during the war and under the transitional government and to set up an independent mechanism to monitor the execution of contracts?
3. What is the Commission going to do to enhance and support the capacity of the DRC Government to monitor, manage and mitigate the impact of mining and manage mining revenues transparently at the local, provincial and national level?