

**Question for written answer E-009042/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Norbert Neuser (S&D)

Subject: EU sanctions against rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

The current crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where a six-month rebellion has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes, must be met with immediate action by the EU. According to an independent United Nations report, the M23 rebel group is the driving force behind the rebellion, allegedly with the support of foreign states.

In previous statements, the Commission has noted that the EU has imposed, under Council Regulation (EC) No 1183/2005, sanctions against individuals or entities providing support –financed in part through illicit trade of natural resources – to illegal armed groups in the eastern part of the DRC.

What steps is the Commission taking to ensure that sanctions are imposed against all individuals or entities found to be supporting the M23 rebellion?