

**Question for written answer E-007121/2017
to the Council**
Rule 130
Maria Arena (S&D)

Subject: Application of Annex I and II to Council Decision 2010/788/CFSP

On 29 May 2017, the Council adopted new conclusions on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)¹, applying restrictive measures against a further nine individuals holding positions of responsibility in the country's state administration and security forces.

EU sanctions include, among others, an EU visa ban. However, Lambert Mende, who is on the list of restricted individuals, has travelled to Brussels, entering EU territory on 19 October 2017. His visit risks undermining the EU's DRC sanction regime and sends out a message that it is easily breached. Although the reason for granting this derogation was 'humanitarian', it sends the wrong signal to all the Congolese citizens who are struggling to obtain an EU visa for humanitarian reasons (medical, political or other). Finally, it undermines the credibility of the EU as a whole as it seems to be failing to comply with its own decisions, setting a dangerous precedent which could endanger the future consistent and coherent application of EU sanctions.

1. What measures is the Council taking to follow up on the application of the restrictive measures set out in Annex I and II to Council Decision 2010/788/CFSP?
2. Moreover, what conditions motivated this derogation?

¹ Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2017/905 of 29 May 2017 implementing Decision 2010/788/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo