

**Question for written answer E-005691/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Guido Reil (ID)**

Subject: Development aid

Joseph Kabila was President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from 2001 to 2019. According to a recent study by the media network European Investigative Collaborations, at least EUR 120 million have been pocketed by Kabila, his family and their accomplices since 2013. They have embezzled large sums of public money with the help of the corrupt bank Banque Gabonaise et Française Internationale (BGFI) and the shell corporation Sud Oil. By way of example, bribes totalling EUR 12 million were transferred from foreign companies to Sud Oil in exchange for mining concessions<sup>1</sup>.

Furthermore, a Congolese construction company received EUR 6.6 million from the EU, which it then transferred to a Lebanon-born Belgian who is on the US Sanctions List for financing the terrorist organisation Hezbollah<sup>2</sup>.

1. On what basis and in accordance with which procedure did the Commission pay this money to the Congolese construction company?
2. How did the Commission monitor the effectiveness of its aid payments?
3. How does the Commission justify the fact that European taxpayers' money is being used to finance terrorism?

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<sup>1</sup> 'De hold-up op Congo: hoe de clan-Kabila 122 miljoen stal van de staat', *De Standaard*, 20 November 2021.

<sup>2</sup> 'Europa stuurde miljoenen naar bedrijf dat terreursancties omzeilt', *De Standaard*, 26 November 2021.