

**Question for written answer E-005692/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: DRC development aid – road improvements

Joseph Kabila was President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from 2001 to 2019. A recent study by the media network European Investigative Collaborations has revealed that since 2013 Kabila, his family and his accomplices have lined their pockets with at least EUR 120 million. They have embezzled public monies on a large scale with the help of the corrupt Banque Gabonaise et Française Internationale (BGFI) bank and the shell company Sud Oil. In this way the Kabila clan have stolen money intended, among other things, for road construction.

Barely 10 % of the roads in Kinshasa are asphalted. There are only 3 000 kilometres of asphalted road in the whole of the DRC, a country bigger than western Europe. Flanders, the northern part of Belgium, has 22 times more asphalted roads than the DRC. The national road maintenance fund Foner estimates that USD 145 billion are needed to improve the whole of the country's road network. In all, Foner paid at least USD 10 million between April 2015 and March 2016 to Sud Oil and to Kwansa, a secret investment bank belonging to the Kabila clan¹.

1. How much money has the Commission invested in road improvement in the DRC?
2. What checks are made on the whereabouts and use made of this money?

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