

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: End of European operations in and commitments to Mali

Since 2012, France and several of its European partners have been present in Mali to help ensure regional security.

A total of 53 French soldiers have lost their lives in Operation Barkhane, a military campaign protecting Mali from the Islamist threat.

On 31 January 2022 the ruling military junta, which seized power in a coup d'état a year and a half ago, decided to expel the French coordinator and called for the immediate withdrawal of the Danish troops from Europe's 'Takuba' task force.

The EU and France are thus being gradually pushed out of Mali, despite the tense security situation, to the benefit of foreign powers such as Russia and China.

Since 2012, the EU has allocated more than EUR 400 million in humanitarian aid to Mali. EUR 36.5 million was provided in 2021 alone. We have, however, seen a litany of coups d'état, deals with terrorist groups and affronts to the Member States guaranteeing the region's security.

Given the Malian junta's hostility towards the EU and France, will the Commission put an end to its commitments to Mali and all these subsidies?