

**Question for written answer E-001463/2023**

**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:** The EU's management of the consortium of local civil society actors for electoral observation in the upcoming DRC elections

General elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are scheduled to take place in December this year. The EU is planning to support a consortium of local civil society organisations involved in local electoral observation. To manage the consortium, the EU is planning to give the coordination role to Democracy Reporting International (DRI), a German non-governmental organisation. The consultant that the EU plans to hire through DRI is Raphael Ouattara, Country Director at the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA). A number of civil society actors (local and international) remain concerned about the EU's choice, as Denis Kadima is still a member of EISA's Board of Directors. He is also President of the Congolese Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) and a former Director of EISA. The structural links between Denis Kadima and Raphael Ouattara remain a concern for both local and international civil society actors.

1. Given that the potential appointment of the head of the EU electoral observation consortium is not based on consensus, how does the EU plan to manage a potential split within local civil society actors who are supposed to play a key role in the electoral observation of the upcoming elections?
2. How does the EU plan to guarantee ownership by local civil society organisations of electoral observation of these elections?

Submitted: 3.5.2023