

**Question for written answer E-001708/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tom Vandenkendelaere (PPE)

Subject: Global Gateway – projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The new EU Great Lakes Strategy provides a framework for contributions to address the root causes of instability and insecurity with a view to harnessing the region's enormous potential and opportunities, both for the Union and the countries concerned. In this regard, the strategy provides for the encouragement and support of bi- or multilateral initiatives and investments, including through the Global Gateway and Team Europe regional initiatives.

Under the Global Gateway, so-called flagship projects between the EU and Africa were selected for 2023.

1. One of these projects fleshes out a partnership with the DRC on the extraction of critical raw materials. I would welcome more information on this project and the modalities and timeframe of its implementation.
2. For this year, regional projects were also specifically selected for the Great Lakes region in the areas of renewable energy sources, forest management, health, education and data management. For which of these projects is the DRC a partner country, and how is it involved?
3. Based on which priority needs and opportunities does the Commission intend to invest in a partnership with the DRC beyond 2023?

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