

**Question for written answer E-000619/2024/rev.1**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Hilde Vautmans** (Renew)

Subject: Situation in Congo in connection with the EU-Rwanda agreement

On 19 February 2024, the European Commission and Rwanda signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to set up sustainable raw material value chains.

At the same time, Rwanda is actively involved in the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, an area bordering Rwanda very rich in minerals. It does so through its support to the violent rebel group M23. On 7 July 2023, Josep Borrell, Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, condemned Rwanda's military presence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda's support to M23.

1. Can it be ensured that no sustainable value chains or other projects are established under the MoU in the region of Congo occupied by M23?
2. To what extent did the Commission take account of the underlying connections between Rwanda and the armed group M23 prior to the conclusion of this Memorandum?
3. What are the specific measures that the Commission will take to ensure that cooperation with Rwanda in establishing sustainable raw materials value chains does not contribute to the financing or strengthening of armed groups such as M23 operating in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo?

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