

**Question for written answer E-000923/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Memorandum of understanding with Rwanda in a context of escalating violence in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Since late 2021, the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been under assault by the M23 Movement, reportedly supported by Rwanda and its army, according to several United Nations reports. In a 2022 report, the non-governmental organisation Global Witness<sup>1</sup> noted that Congolese minerals, including those contributing to the conflicts, continue to be smuggled into Rwanda and exported as Rwandan minerals. On 19 February 2024, the Commission and the Rwandan Government signed a memorandum of understanding<sup>2</sup> on critical raw materials. Discussions are also under way regarding a security and military cooperation pact<sup>3</sup>.

1. In a context of escalating violence in the east of the DRC, does the Commission plan to propose further sanctions against individuals responsible for violating human rights and sustaining armed conflict, instability and insecurity in the DRC?
2. To use the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, at least 93 % of funding has to meet the requirements of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Will this instrument be used for critical raw material projects in Rwanda and, if so, what measures is the Commission taking to avoid promoting the illegal smuggling of critical raw materials and the intensification of regional conflicts?
3. Is the Commission considering extending the list of conflict-affected and high-risk areas to neighbouring and transit countries such as Rwanda?

Submitted: 25.3.2024

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/natural-resource-governance/itsci-laundromat/>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_822](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_822).

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/RwandaMFA/status/1759912955473268943>.