

**Question for written answer E-002684/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Hana Jalloul Muro (S&D)

Subject: No ‘blood minerals’ in the EU: reliable supply chains in the EU-Rwanda raw materials agreement

The EU-Rwanda raw materials agreement signed by the Commission in February 2024 is raising questions¹ about the EU’s ability to ensure that minerals from conflict zones do not enter the EU.

The VP/HR has condemned² Rwanda’s support for the M23 rebel group and urged it to end this support. The M23 rebel group controls part of the mining region in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and is exacerbating the ongoing conflict and human rights violations in the area. The US State Department reports³ that Rwanda exports more minerals than it mines and that it is a major destination for coltan and other minerals, which are smuggled across the Congolese border. DRC President Felix Tshisekedi called⁴ the agreement a provocation.

Despite the EU’s efforts to create reliable supply chains, experts⁵ argue that the agreement could contribute to the illicit trade of minerals in the region.

In this context:

1. What measures is the Commission taking to guarantee the traceability of materials imported from Rwanda and ensure that there is no trade in conflict minerals from the eastern DRC?
2. In view of the new raw materials partnerships with African countries, what measures will the Commission take to ensure the correct application of the Due Diligence Directive and ensure compliance with the obligations under the Conflict Minerals Regulation?

Submitted: 27.11.2024

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-rwanda-minerals-agreement-coltan-ore-mining-conflict-smuggling-rubaya-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-paul-kagame/>.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/03/04/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-drc-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-escalation-of-hostilities-in-the-eastern-part-of-the-country/>.

³ <https://www.state.gov/statement-of-concern-related-to-certain-minerals-supply-chains-from-rwanda-and-eastern-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-contributing-to-the-ongoing-conflict/>

⁴ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/congos-president-accuses-rwanda-of-looting-with-eu-support/3145624>.

⁵ <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-rwanda-minerals-agreement-coltan-ore-mining-conflict-smuggling-rubaya-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-paul-kagame/>.