

Question for written answer E-004306/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Risk of indirect EU funding of Russian interests through financial assistance to African countries

On 7 July 2026, the African Union and Russia agreed to deepen trade, investment and energy cooperation. Russian companies are expanding their access to African resources, including through a gold refinery in Mali and mining concessions in Burkina Faso.

Meanwhile, the Commission has programmed € 4.471 billion in allocations for sub-Saharan African countries for 2025-2027. This raises a strategic concern: EU taxpayers support development and vulnerable communities, while Russia secures valuable resources, strengthens its influence and claims the political credit. Local populations risk exploitation, while resource revenues may help sustain Russia's war against Ukraine and hostile activities targeting the EU.

1. Has the Commission investigated whether EU assistance indirectly subsidises Russian resource extraction or benefits Russian companies, military contractors or sanctioned entities, including by freeing up recipient governments' resources, and what safeguards prevent this?
2. How does the Commission assess the risk that Russia's acquisition of African resources is financing its war against Ukraine and its escalating hostile operations against the EU, while exploiting local communities, whose needs are subsequently addressed through European aid?
3. Will the Commission revise assistance to ensure that the EU's financial contribution delivers benefits for local populations and European strategic interests, rather than allowing Russia to capture resources, gain popularity and reap the political rewards?

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