

The Council is aware of the reports of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and has been publicly supportive of their work. In view of the escalation of the conflict in eastern DRC, as aggravated by the renewed offensive of the M23 armed group supported by the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF), the EU has adopted on 17 March 2025 additional restrictive measures against several Rwandan officers, a civil servant and one entity for their responsibility in sustaining the armed conflict, instability and insecurity in the DRC, and exploiting the armed conflict through the illicit exploitation or trade of natural resources¹.

Every European Peace Facility (EPF) assistance measure includes robust safeguards and guarantees, including in terms of respect of human rights and international humanitarian law, which are implemented by the High Representative of the Union through the arrangements with the beneficiary to ensure compliance by the end users with the requirements and conditions established by the Council. This has been the case for the initial assistance measure as well as for the top-up adopted on 18 November 2024. Failure to comply with international law may result in the suspension or termination of the assistance measure.

The EPF assistance measure is duly circumscribed. It is not intended for support to specific individuals or to the RDF as a whole, but to sustain the RDF units deployed in Mozambique's northern province of Cabo Delgado with the full support of the Mozambican authorities. The presence of the RDF troops continues to provide an important contribution to the fight against terrorism in Cabo Delgado.

¹ OJ L, 2025/510, 17.3.2025.

To date, the RDF's deployment in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province has been assessed to be in full compliance with the conditions set by the beneficiary arrangement. Council decision 2024/2880 of 18 November 2024 amending Decision (CFSP) 2022/2354² has been accompanied by a set of more stringent implementing arrangements to avoid any linkage between the EPF support to the RDF operation in Cabo Delgado and the unauthorised operations of the RDF in eastern DRC.

Due to the part played in the conflict in eastern DRC by Rwanda, the EU has suspended its annual defence and security consultations with Rwanda as of 24 February 2025³.

² OJ L, 2024/2880, 19.11.2024.

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2025/02/24/>