

EN

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Answer given by Mr Sikela
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.8.2025)

The contribution of EUR 900 million in a Team Europe approach (EU, Member States, European Investment Bank) for Global Gateway projects was announced by the President of the Commission in December 2023¹. The funding will support four Global Gateway initiatives on green deal, connectivity, health and education². This support won't be directly or indirectly linked to the mining sector.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Rwanda on 19 February 2024³, formalises the shared intention to support sustainable and responsible sourcing, production and processing of raw materials. The goal is to increase traceability and transparency and reinforce the fight against illegal trafficking of minerals, in line with the EU Great Lakes Strategy⁴. Notably, the MoU supports Rwanda's engagement with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative⁵.

There is no evidence that the MoU has in any way contributed to financing or legitimising the March 23 Movement (M23) armed group or aggravating human right violations in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The EU has transposed United Nations (UN) restrictive measures against M23 and has adopted a series of autonomous measures targeting several of its senior leaders, including recently⁶. The EU has been supportive of the UN Human Rights Council fact-finding mission established to investigate the serious human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law committed in North Kivu and South Kivu since January 2022.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6724.

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/rwanda/global-gateway-rwanda_en?s=115.

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/58035>.

⁴ Council Conclusions of 20 February 2023, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6631-2023-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁵ <https://eiti.org/>.

⁶ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/17/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-eu-lists-further-nine-individuals-and-one-entity/>.