

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001244/26
to the Council
Rima Hassan (The Left)
(25 March 2026)**

Subject: Insufficient EU sanctions against Rwanda and the murder of humanitarian worker Karine Buisset in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The UN Group of Experts has concluded that the deployment of the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) violates Congolese sovereignty and that Rwanda is responsible for the actions of M23. In February 2025, the European Parliament adopted by majority a resolution calling for the strengthening of sanctions, the freezing of budget support and the suspension of the memorandum of understanding on raw materials. The Council's decision of 17 March 2025 to include nine individuals on the list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures falls far short of meeting these demands.

On 2 March 2026, the United States sanctioned the RDF as a whole, as well as four senior officials. Meanwhile, the conflict is spreading: on 11 March 2026, Karine Buisset, a French Unicef employee, was killed by a drone strike in Goma. A war crimes investigation has been opened in France.

1. Does the Council intend to extend its sanctions to the whole of the RDF, as the US has done?
2. What steps will the Council take to accelerate the peace process?
3. When will the Council implement the measures called for by Parliament, such as the suspension of the memorandum of understanding and the freezing of budget support for Rwanda?

Submitted: 25.3.2026

**Reply
(8 July 2026)**

The Council is deeply concerned about the escalation of the conflict in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and continues to closely monitor the developments in the Great Lakes region ⁽¹⁾. The situation has been regularly discussed at the Foreign Affairs Council ⁽²⁾ as well as in the relevant Council preparatory bodies.

On 29 January 2026, the Foreign Affairs Council called for increased EU action across three key priorities: 1) political engagement, 2) humanitarian assistance and advocacy, and 3) peace support.

The EU further intensified high-level political outreach to all parties involved in the conflict. The EU has also repeatedly called upon Rwanda to respect the territorial integrity of the DRC and honour its commitments — most critically by withdrawing its troops from the DRC and ending its support to the M23.

The EU is the largest humanitarian donor to the region, having allocated EUR 129.5 million in 2025, and announced an initial EUR 81.5 million in EU humanitarian aid for 2026.

The Council continues to support ongoing peace processes at local, regional and international levels. In addition, the Council welcomes the increasing operationalisation of the African Union-mandated mediation and stands ready to contribute to its success.

In line with the EU's renewed Strategy for the Great Lakes region ⁽³⁾, the Council is also working to incentivise peace and transform the root causes of conflict by promoting regional integration and economic cooperation.

⁽¹⁾ As expressed for instance in an EU 27 Statement in January 2025: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/01/25/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-latest-escalation-in-eastern-drc/>

⁽²⁾ See FAC meetings of 27/01/2025; 24/02/2025; 15/12/2025; 29/01/2026; 23/02/2026.

⁽³⁾ A renewed EU Great Lakes Strategy: Supporting the transformation of the root causes of instability into shared opportunities, adopted by Council Conclusions on 20 February 2023: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6631-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

In response to the escalation in eastern DRC, the Council adopted additional restrictive measures in March 2025, notably against three commanders of the Rwandan Defence Force (RDF). One of these individuals, Major General Ruki Karusisi, was also sanctioned by the United States on 2 March.

To date, the EU adopted and maintains restrictive measures on 31 individuals and two entities for their roles in relation to the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in particular those sustaining the conflict, as well as the state of instability and insecurity in the DRC. The restrictive measures were extended on 8 December 2025 for one year ⁽⁴⁾.

On 24 February 2025, the High Representative announced that the memorandum of understanding on critical raw materials with Rwanda (MoU) would be under review ⁽⁵⁾.

The EU continues to actively monitor and respond to developments in the DRC and the broader Great Lakes region.

⁽⁴⁾ See Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/2507 of 8 December 2025 amending Decision 2010/788/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo OJ L, 2025/2507, 9.12.2025 and Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2508 of 8 December 2025 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1183/2005 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, OJ L, 2025/2508, 9.12.2025. See also Council of the EU Press release (8 December 2025): <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/12/08/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-council-prolongs-individual-sanctions-by-another-year/#:~:text=Democratic%20Republic%20of%20the%20Congo:%20Council%20prolongs,apply%20to%2031%20persons%20and%20two%20entities>

⁽⁵⁾ Foreign Affairs Council, 24 February 2025 (main results): <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2025/02/24/>