

# Resolution on the criteria for EU peace enforcement operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo

2006/2539(RSP) - 23/03/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the criteria for EU peace enforcement operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The resolution was adopted by 455 votes in favour and 130 against, with 15 abstentions. Parliament noted that the EU had only a limited number of deployable troops at its disposal, and its priorities should be maintaining peace and stability in the Balkans and in the Union's own immediate geographical neighbourhood. It noted also that for a possible EU mission to the DRC, there will need to be a specific EU mandate, based on the UN Charter. However, it felt that the UN's request should be honoured, since it is an overarching goal of the EU to strengthen the UN as a framework for effective multilateralism. Accordingly, Parliament set out the conditions that it felt must be fulfilled for this complex and potentially risky engagement of troops under the command of the EU:

- such an operation should have a strong and clear mandate that will refer exclusively to the security of the presidential and parliamentary elections in 2006;
- the military operation would have to be limited in time to the period of the elections. There has to be a clear strategy on how to transfer the tasks, after the expiration of the operation's mandate, to the UN and /or the Congolese police and military;
- security in the country, especially in the Katanga region and in the border region with Rwanda, should remain under the responsibility of the UN; the geographical scope of the EU mandate must be determined in accordance with the number of available troops, their security requirements and the operational requirements of the mission;
- under no circumstances should the military operation consist of troops from only one Member State . The European character of the operation should be expressed in the participation of several Member State ;
- an intervention from the EU could only take place at the formal request of the Congolese interim government;
- the deployment of troops under the command of the EU would have a double task: deterring possible trouble-makers and encouraging the DRC's citizens to exercise their right to vote. The European operation must therefore be of an adequate and credible size;
- in order to achieve these goals, the Council would have to develop a clear concept of how to deploy the necessary military or police (possibly gendarmerie) forces;
- a time-limited military operation would have to be closely linked with the efforts of the international community for the reconstruction of the DRC after the civil war;
- clear commitments have to be made by the international community to improve the long-term efficiency and sustainability of the Congolese police and armed forces.

Parliament called on the Council to appear before it in order to present a proposal with a clear mandate fully based on a well-established scenario of needs, including a timetable.

