



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



**2749th EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting
Brussels, 15 September 2006**

**Council Conclusions
on the Democratic Republic of Congo**

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The European Union looks forward to the orderly and peaceful conclusion of the ongoing electoral process in the DRC, allowing for legitimate and democratically elected institutions in expression of the full sovereignty of the Congolese people. The Council has noted the results of the legislative elections published by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) which mark another important step in this direction.
2. The Council commends all efforts undertaken by the Congolese transitional authorities, and in particular the IEC, the United Nations and the international community to prepare the upcoming second round of presidential elections as well as the provincial elections. The Council notes the Supreme Court ruling on the period in which the second round of the presidential elections takes place. In this context, the Council calls upon all parties and candidates to support and to respect the IEC, recalling its central role in organizing and overseeing the electoral process.
3. In line with its recent Council Conclusions on the DRC of 17 July and 25 August, the Council welcomes the progress made in confidence building and in reducing the tensions between the two presidential candidates and urges them to abstain from any acts of violence. The Council welcomes the meeting of President Kabila and Vice-president Bemba in the margins of the 'Conseil Supérieur de la Défense' on 13 September which is an encouraging sign. It appreciates the role of MONUC and the Comité International d'Accompagnement de la Transition (CIAT) and commends the efforts undertaken by SG/HR Solana in facilitating these developments.

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4. The Council welcomes the signature of an acte d'engagement on the use of the media and stresses that media channels should remain operational and that no material should be broadcast that could incite violence or ethnic hatred. Both sides should abide by the decision of the Haute Autorité des Medias.
5. The EU will continue to actively support the electoral process. This support will include continuing the close and effective cooperation between the EU military operation EUFOR RD Congo and MONUC, which, together with the EU's reinforced police mission in Kinshasa (EUPOL Kinshasa), has so far proven instrumental in maintaining the stability during the electoral process. Furthermore, the EU has provided additional funding for the election preparations and continues to conduct an Electoral Observation Mission.
6. On the basis of a successful conclusion of the electoral process, the EU remains committed to cooperating with the newly-elected government in promoting projects to assist immediate reconstruction and rehabilitation, to be followed by a long-term effort for sustainable development and taking into account the principles of good governance.
7. Following the conclusion of the electoral process, it is of crucial importance that the Congolese authorities show strong commitment to good governance and remain committed to strengthening the rule of law as well as security and stability in the DRC. The Council underlines the importance of the DRC authorities continuing the reforms in the security sector. In this context, the Council underlines the role played by EUSEC RD Congo, EUPOL Kinshasa as well as the EC and Member States activities. The EU will pursue its ongoing efforts in order to support the Congolese authorities in this field, building on its experience and that of its Member States. In view of the need for a comprehensive approach combining the different initiatives underway, the EU would be ready to assume a coordinating role in international efforts in the security sector, in close cooperation with the United Nations, to support the Congolese authorities in this field."

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