



Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2006/2539(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the criteria for EU peace enforcement operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo		
Subject 6.10.05 Peace preservation, humanitarian and rescue tasks, crisis management		
Geographical area Congo		

Key players			
European Parliament			
Council of the European Union			
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	2744	17/07/2006
	General Affairs	2736	12/06/2006
	General Affairs	2719	20/03/2006

Key events			
20/03/2006	Debate in Council	2719	Summary
22/03/2006	Debate in Parliament		
23/03/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
23/03/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0111/2006	Summary
23/03/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/06/2006	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
17/07/2006	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2539(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 132-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B6-0190/2006	22/03/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T6-0111/2006	23/03/2006	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2006)1725	19/04/2006	EC	

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

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

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 States;
- 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.

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

The Council heard a report from High Representative, Mr Solana, on his visit to Kinshasa on 19 March and further discussed the EU's response to the UN request for possible EU support to MONUC during the upcoming electoral period in the DRC.

The Presidency, noting that there was general agreement on the principle of giving a positive answer to the UN's request, indicated that it would ensure that the competent Council bodies prepared formal Council decisions to that effect.