

Content of email message to EU High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and to the Chargé d'affaires, EU Delegation in the DRC

Cher Mme Federica Mogherini et M Bertrand Soret,

I am writing to ask the European Union to take concrete action immediately to help ensure a peaceful transfer of power on December 19 in the DR Congo.

As you know, if there is no new accord with all key opposition players and if President Joseph Kabila does not step down when his term in office ends on December 19, the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be instantly plunged into a political crisis on December 20—one which is almost certain to result in sustained widespread armed conflict throughout the country.

Today, the Congo's highly respected Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops (CENCO) is working to facilitate a new accord among all opposition leaders, including Etienne Tshisekedi, Moïse Katumbi, and the youth organization Lucha.

But time is very short. With only days left before the December 19 deadline, it is imperative that the European Union step up and support democracy, peace and human rights in the DRC in a tangible way.

The European Union cannot determine the best course of action for an interim transition government and for new presidential elections in the DRC. That is up to the Congolese people and Congolese leaders.

The European Union can, however, take action to change President Kabila's calculations so that he will peacefully step down on December 19. The European Union can take actions that are the tipping point for a peaceful transition of power.

I ask you to urge the Council of the European Union to immediately:

1. Impose enhanced personal financial sanctions on President Kabila, his family, and those around him who have directly subverted the Constitution and democracy;
2. Impose a travel ban on President Kabila, his family, and those around him who have directly subverted the Constitution and democracy;
3. Support those in the DR Congo, including Moïse Katumbi, who support a full amnesty for Joseph Kabila upon his peaceful exit from office on December 19, and

4. Most importantly, work directly with Joseph Kabila and international organizations and institutions to find Kabila an acceptable position that he can take up in his after he leaves office on December 19. President Kabila needs options. Good options.

Democracy is still possible. It is not too late.

The European Union must act. And you must act now.

With respect,

[YOUR NAME AND COUNTRY WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY APPENDED]