

Content of email message to key Italy decision-makers

Subject line: Please support EU sanctions and exit plan for DRC President Kabila

Dear Honourable Paolo Gentiloni,

The actions of Italy and the European Union can help ensure a peaceful transfer of power on December 19 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I am writing to urge the Government of Italy to support targeted financial sanctions by the European Union against the President Joseph Kabila, his family, and those around him who have directly subverted the Constitution and democracy.

As you know, if President Joseph Kabila does not step down when his second and final term in office ends on December 19, the DR Congo will be instantly plunged into a political crisis—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.

Italy, through the European Union, can help CENCO succeed by changing President Kabila's calculation—by increasing the negative consequences of staying in power and improving his options for life outside of the Congo. Kabila needs a good 'exit plan'.

In addition to targeted personal sanctions, I urge you to work with your counterparts in the EU to:

- Impose a travel ban on President Kabila, his family, and those around him who have directly subverted the Constitution and democracy;
- 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
- 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.

Italy has financial interests in the DRC. In the long term, a stable democratic government will provide the best foundation for profitable foreign investment.

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

With respect,

[YOUR NAME AND COUNTRY WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY APPENDED]