



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on Democratic Republic of Congo

(2712nd EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting - Brussels, 27 February 2006)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council recalls the importance of completing the transition process in the Democratic Republic of Congo which is also essential for fostering peace and stability throughout the Great Lakes region. The successful referendum of 18-19 December 2005 has demonstrated the importance the Congolese people attach to the democratic process. The forthcoming electoral process will be a key step to that effect. The Council welcomes the promulgation of the new Constitution and the adoption of the electoral law. The Council encourages the Transitional National Government, the political parties, their leaders and the civil society to work together to ensure peaceful, fair and transparent elections according to international standards which should contribute significantly to securing DRC's future as a democratic and stable country. The Council underlines that the agreed timetable of the transition, including the elections before the end of June 2006, should be respected.

The Council recalls the EU's engagement in the DRC, notably by its sustained and continued support to the transition, including the electoral process, provided through the EDF and the EC, and ESDP missions EUSEC RD Congo and EUPOL Kinshasa as well as through bilateral support by Member States.

The Council recalls its conclusions of 12 December 2005 on the importance of a stable and secure environment for the elections. This is first and foremost the responsibility of the transition government, supported by MONUC. In that context, following a request by the UN, the Council is considering how best to provide support to the UN in this endeavour. To this end, contacts with the UN and the DRC authorities are being pursued, as well as with the AU."

P R E S S
