

(AE) DRC: NGOS CALL ON EU TO WITHHOLD BUDGET SUPPORT TO RWANDA

Brussels, 30/08/2012 (Agence Europe) – Appalled by the evidence that Rwanda is implicated in the conflict in eastern Congo, EURAC, a European Network of Active NGOs in Central Africa, calls on the European Union and its member states to withhold their budget support to Rwanda. It welcomes the fact that some member states (Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and the African Development Bank have already decided to impose a temporary freeze on this kind of aid.

EURAC's call was made on 24 August after publication by the United Nations Security Council of the interim report by a group of experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo (S:2012/348) and an addendum providing substantiated evidence of Rwanda's support to armed groups in DRC, including the M23. After analysing the report and the Rwandan government's response, which challenges some parts of the report arguing that they are false and biased, EURAC considers it hardly likely that the addendum is either wrong or falsified. (AN/transl.jl)

(AE) SEYCHELLES: EIB LOAN FOR SME

Brussels, 30/08/2012 (Agence Europe) – The European Investment Bank (EIB) granted a loan of €5 million, on Friday 24 August, to the Development Bank of the Seychelles to increase funding available for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the country. The Development Bank of the Seychelles will match the amount for financing SME projects. (OL/transl.fl)

(AE) TRADE: ANTIDUMPING INVESTIGATION AGAINST ARGENTINA AND INDONESIA ON BIODIESEL

Brussels, 30/08/2012 (Agence Europe) – The European Commission said on 29 August that it was opening an anti-dumping investigation into Argentinean and Indonesian exports of biodiesel.

The Commission is thus following up the complaint lodged on 17 July by the European Biodiesel Board (EBB) on behalf of producers representing more than 25% of total EU production.

European producers accuse Argentina and Indonesia of selling their biodiesel at low prices, through a system of differentiated export taxes on the raw materials required for the production of biodiesel, which artificially discourage exports of raw materials in favour of biodiesel exports, according to EBB. In their opinion this is a practice which has had a negative effect on price and the European industry's market share, thus affecting its performance as a whole.

Argentina and Indonesia exported 2.5 million tonnes of biodiesel to the European market in 2011 (90% of biodiesel exports to the EU).

The Commission now has 15 months to determine if Argentinean and Indonesian biodiesel benefits from dumping practices and to decide to apply definitive anti-dumping measures. In the meantime, it can decide to impose provisional duties over the next nine months.

It should be noted that the investigation was initiated the day after the complaint lodged with the WTO by Argentina on 17 August against Spanish restrictions on the import of biodiesel (*see EUROPE 10672*). In retaliation for the Argentinean decision, in April, to expropriate the Spanish company Repsol of its Argentinean subsidiary YPF, Madrid decided to limit Spanish imports of Argentinean biodiesel. (EH/transl.fl)

(AE) TRADE: 30/08/2012 (Agence Europe) – **France promises resolute action on reciprocity.** “Our businesses must be able to fight on equal terms. France will take resolute action to impose the principle of trade reciprocity”, warns French Minister for Trade Nicole Bricq in an interview with French economic daily *Les Echos* on 28 August. “I will be extremely watchful of European trade policy. It is imperative that it be founded on the principle of reciprocity and on balanced partnership agreements. The free-trade agreements must satisfy conditions, especially on corporate social responsibility and job creation”, she says. The French minister for trade will meet Commissioner Karel De Gucht next week, then her main European counterparts during the course of September. (EH/transl.fl)

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