

## Dialogue at the European Parliament on the perspectives in DR Congo

In December 2013, AEFJN participated at a meeting at the European Parliament co-organized by Mariya Gabriel (MEP) and EurAc (European Network for Central Africa) entitled "The Democratic Republic of Congo two years after the elections: state of play and perspectives." The speakers were Mariya Gabriel (MEP-EPP Group and Chief of the EU Electoral Observation Mission to the DRC for the 2011 elections), Martin Kobler, Head of the UN Mission for Stabilization in DRC (MONUSCO), Koen Vervaeke, EEAS<sup>1</sup> Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region and Flavien Misoni, National Executive Secretary of the independent CENI<sup>2</sup> in the DR Congo.

The dialogue with the public was interesting and presented contrasting and, at times, opposing views and unanswered questions. The issues of the national consultations conducted by President Kabila, its follow-up and recommendations, the Addis Ababa framework, and the extended mandate of MONUSCO and their action on the ground were the main themes. Other issues of discussion turned around the reforms of the electoral system and register, the timing for the 2016 general elections, the risk of a constitutional revision and the role of Congolese citizens and civil society in the reconciliation process. The greater commitment of the region to stop armed groups and the greater cohesion of the international community (EU, AU and UN) was seen as an opportunity to break the circle of violence. There were many calls to the Congolese government to take action towards peace and order, transparency and dialogue.

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<sup>1</sup> EEAS, European External Action Service

<sup>2</sup> CENI, National Electoral Commission