

## European Union operations in crisis regions (2006)

**Source:** EUROPA. Gateway to the European Union. [ON-LINE]. [s.l.]: European Commission, [14.09.2007]. Disponible sur [http://ec.europa.eu/snapshot2006/crisis/crisis\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/snapshot2006/crisis/crisis_en.htm).

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**Last updated:** 04/07/2016



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In a significant expansion of its international role, the EU sent troops in 2006 to the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Lebanon — two high-risk regions.

Sometimes criticised for its inability to respond to crisis situations, the EU and its Member States sent a military force to the Congo to help maintain calm and stability during the presidential and parliamentary elections, the first in more than 40 years. The 3 500-strong force was under German command. The first round of the elections took place on 30 June [*sic\**], the second at the end of October.

Following the fighting in South Lebanon between Israeli forces and the elements of Hezbollah in July and August, a number of Member States, led by France and Italy, contributed 7 500 troops to strengthen the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

\* July.