

European Union operations in crisis regions (2006)

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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.