COUNCIL DECISION 2006/676/CFSP

of 10 August 2006

concerning the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Government of the Swiss Confederation on the participation of the Swiss Confederation in the European Union military operation in support of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) during the election process (Operation EUFOR RD Congo)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 24 thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the Presidency,

Whereas:

(1) On 27 April 2006, the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/319/CFSP [1] on the European Union military operation in support of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) during the election process (Operation EUFOR RD Congo).

(2) Article 10(3) of that Joint Action provides that detailed arrangements regarding the participation of third States are to be the subject of agreements to be concluded in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 24 of the Treaty.

(3) Following authorisation by the Council on 13 September 2004, the Presidency, assisted by the Secretary-General/High Representative, negotiated an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Government of the Swiss Confederation on the participation of the Swiss Confederation in Operation EUFOR RD Congo.

(4) The Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters should be approved on behalf of the European Union,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Government of the Swiss Confederation on the participation of the Swiss Confederation in the European Union military operation in support of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) during the election process (Operation EUFOR RD Congo) is hereby approved on behalf of the European Union.

The text of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters is attached to this Decision.

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person(s) empowered to sign the Agreement in order to bind the European Union.

Article 3

This Decision shall take effect on the day of its adoption.

Article 4

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 10 August 2006.

For the Council
The President
E. TUOMIOJA

[1] OJ L 116, 29.4.2006, p. 98.