Koen Vervaeke appointed Senior Coordinator for the Great Lakes region

Koen Vervaeke has been appointed Senior Coordinator for the Great Lakes region. In addition to his responsibilities as Director for the Horn of Africa, East and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean, Mr. Vervaeke will provide a lead on policy issues affecting the Great Lakes countries (Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and DRC) in the EEAS Africa Department and act as the coordination point for EU political activity in the region.

He will work closely with the EU Delegations and the European Commission and EU member states to advance our objectives of peace and prosperity in the region as a whole, and stabilisation and reconstruction in the areas most affected by conflict. To this end, Mr. Vervaeke will ensure the EU’s continued engagement in the regional peace processes, coordinating and consulting with regional, international and non-governmental actors. He will act as the EU’s representative in the Great Lakes Contact Group and will report to member states through The Africa working group and the Political and Security Committee on a regular basis.

His remit will cover the whole range of operations and instruments to tackle issues which pose a threat to the stability of the region, including the illegal exploitation of natural resources, security sector reform and sexual violence.