

**Exchange of views with Romano PRODI, UN Special Envoy for the Sahel, on the situation in the region:**

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- extracts EP Committee on Foreign Affairs Background:  
Romano PRODI was named Special Envoy for the Sahel last 9th October 2012, with the mission of leading UN response to the multifaceted crisis Sahelian countries are going through, with an initial focus on Mali. The Sahel region, which stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, and includes Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and parts of Sudan, Cameroon and Nigeria, is currently facing a swathe of problems, which are not only political but also involve security, humanitarian resilience and human rights. In addition to political instability in Mali, the region suffers from extreme poverty; over 18 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity and over one million children risk severe acute malnutrition.



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TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
00:00:00	Title	00:00:05
00:00:05	Exterior shot of the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium (1 shot)	00:00:05
00:00:10	Arrival of Romano PRODI, UN Special Envoy for the Sahel, (3 shots)	00:00:18
00:00:28	SOUNDBITE (Italien): Romano PRODI, UN Special Envoy for the Sahel, on the situation in the region: "The French intervention was absolutely crucial as the country was on the verge of collapse when extremist groups headed south towards Bamako, I have to say it was inevitable that the French took action. That undoubtedly has addressed some problems but obviously that hasn't resolved the issue as to how in the future we resolve the non military dependence of the Sahel question."	00:00:38
00:01:06	SOUNDBITE (Italian): Romano PRODI, UN Special Envoy for the Sahel, on the situation in the region: "There is more to this matter than the military component, we need also to focus on the political concerns that apply in particular of the people of the North of Mali who for a long time they felt they had been neglected both politically and economically. That means that we need to start again	00:00:46

	from square one with a process of reconciliation, attempts were made on earlier occasions, we cannot regard this as a problem unique to the present point in time, it has very deep routes and we need to bring the people to the negotiation table as quickly as possible."	
00:01:52	SOUNDBITE (Italian): Romano PRODI, UN Special Envoy for the Sahel, on the situation in the region: "There are hug numbers of refugees who require humanitarian assistance on a very large scale; there is something between 400 to 500.000 displaced people. In other words, people who left their homes are either heading south of Mali or to neighbouring countries. What lies at the heart of our strategies is the medium to long term development of the area. That development cannot be seen solely in the context of the original countries, you need a regional approach."	00:00:43
00:02:35	SOUNDBITE (French): Arnaud DANJEAN, (EPP, FR) was recently in Mali on a task finding mission: "The question we gathered on our recent mission to Mali, the risk are immense; we had some military, remarkable successes, I think that is incontestable but nevertheless we need to make sure that are not only an optical illusion. We need a long-term commitment and this could take a very long time. We need an institutional and political process of dialogue which needs to be robust and which should try to collect the genuine collapse of the whole the Malian state."	00:00:37
00:03:12	SOUNDBITE (French): Belabbas BELKACEM (Algeria), Chair of committees on foreign affairs from the Algerian Parliament: "How can we eradicate terrorism from this region, well we have to stop their financing. So we need to stop the trafficking of arms, we need to stop kidnappings and stop the trafficking of drugs. Drugs smuggling is becoming increasingly important by these smugglings gangs, in Sahel, it is the key factor as it effects so many countries in the Sahel."	00:00:32
00:03:44	cut away shots, (4 shots)	00:00:16
00:04:00	END	00:00:00