

Question for written answer E-007389/2014
to the Commission (Πρόεδρος του Ευρωπαϊκού Συμβουλίου)
Rule 130
Alberto Cirio (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - New departure in the EU's international relations

Many European companies are having to foot the bill for the sanctions imposed on Russia, since they have been unable to deliver goods ready to be sold on account of the embargo.

Leaving aside the question whether they deserve to pay for the mistakes of others, this event marks a new departure in the EU's external relations: in response to conduct that has been deemed wrong, the European institutions are imposing sanctions, even at the cost of damaging the EU economy.

We must remember that, since February 2012, a foreign power has been holding two Member State nationals serving their country on charges of using excessive force in the course of an international anti-piracy operation.

1. Does the High Representative agree that the arrest and detention of two Italian marines in the exercise of their duties in international waters is a violation of national sovereignty?
2. By virtue of the aforementioned new departure, does High Representative agree that such conduct merits sanctions, just as much as Russia's conduct vis-à-vis Ukraine?