

**Question for written answer E-009065/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Lorenzo Fontana (NI)

Subject: VP/HR - Remarks by Joe Biden regarding the sanctions on Russia

As has been widely reported in the media, during a lecture at Harvard University on 3 October 2014, US Vice-President Joe Biden claimed that the EU had agreed to impose sanctions on Russia only after being 'embarrassed' into taking action by the American Government and by the personal insistence of President Barack Obama.

These comments, which were even published on the White House website, are extremely serious.

But equally serious is the lack of response from EU institutions.

Statements made by the Vice-President of the USA on a topic of such delicacy should certainly not be taken lightly.

1. Can the High Representative comment on the incident and explain why there has been no official response from the EU?
2. Can she indicate how she intends to proceed should Mr Biden's comments prove to be accurate?