

**Question for written answer E-010579/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lorenzo Fontana (NI)

Subject: South Stream gas pipeline

Media sources have reported that, at a press conference with President Erdogan during a visit to Turkey, the Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the EU's position on the South Stream pipeline was 'not constructive' and that Russia could decide to 'retarget' its gas supplies.

Given the *Realpolitik* currently at play as a result of the EU/Bulgarian decision to suspend work on the pipeline project and the extremely tense relations between the EU and Russia, and the fact that the South Stream pipeline was targeted at the southern Member States and companies in that part of the EU would have been the main beneficiaries of the investment and orders generated by the project, can the Commission say:

1. how much the EU has invested in the South Stream project;
2. whether, following the latest sanctions against Russia, the climate of tension is not proving too damaging to the European economy, which was already in serious difficulty, and in particular to the areas and companies concerned;
3. how she can justify the loss of the money already invested as well as the large orders that would have gone to the companies concerned, which include Italian firms which are partly state-owned?