Question for written answer E-001555/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Barbara Kappel (NI)

Subject: Sanctions and a weak euro

The approach of the European Central Bank, the general economic situation and the recent abolition of the cap on the franc by the Swiss National Bank have allowed the value of the euro to drop even further, to the delight of a number of countries (such as France). Apparently the aim is to revive exports on the back of a lower exchange rate and boost inflation slightly. However, what makes perfect monetary policy sense is affecting EU foreign policy in general and the sanctions regime in particular.

A weak euro makes exports to third countries cheap and, if they are affected by EU sanctions, they too have to grapple with a weak currency. The result should have been to dissipate the effect of sanctions on goods not subject to EU sanctions. How is this dissipation quantified in connection with sanctions against Russia?

Was this impact discussed with the ECB when the sanction regime was elaborated or was there no coordination between the Commission and the ECB?

Does the Commission think that the credibility of sanctions and thus the influence of the EU is undercut when the one institution’s means of exerting power are undermined by another institution’s action?