

**Question for written answer E-013560/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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**Subject:** EU-USA sanctions against the Russian Federation in view of their impact on offshore production off Sakhalin and at the Prirazlomnoye field in the Pechora Sea

According to Kommersant.ru of 17 September 2015, the Russian Ministry of Energy has expressed concern about security and progress in Arctic shelf development. Russian companies might lack up to 150 000 components needed for offshore platforms by 2020. Besides restricting progress in oilfield development plans, it could also seriously compromise security at existing projects, since 68% of the technical equipment needed by the industry is now subjected to sanctions, and consequently is out of reach of the Russians.

Adding to the security concerns, experts are suggesting that Russia could try to cover the deficiencies by importing used technical equipment from countries that have not imposed sanctions against Russia, e.g. Asia.

However, there is no evidence to suggest a slowdown in drilling as Russian oil output rose to a post-Soviet record last month (Bloomberg 03/10/2015).

An Arctic oil drilling accident might have drastic consequences for the fragile Arctic environment.

Is the Commission aware of this, and what measures does it intend to take so that EU-USA sanctions against Russia do not further compromise environmental security at offshore production off Sakhalin, in the far east of Russia, and at the Prirazlomnoye field in the Pechora Sea, and consequently involve the EU indirectly in a major environmental crisis?