

**Question for written answer E-006330/2016
to the Council**
Rule 130
Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)

Subject: Ukraine crisis and sanctions against Russia

On 1 July 2016 the Council renewed EU sanctions against Russia until January 2017.

However, there is nothing to indicate that European citizens support such a move. In fact, a resolution calling precisely for sanctions not to be renewed was approved by French MPs in April 2016 most notably in response to the Russian embargo - imposed after the EU sanctions - which affects French farmers.

The annexation of the Crimea and the troubles in the Donbass are the consequences of a coup which had the tacit support of the US and EU administrations. The Kiev authorities, which came to power in the wake of the Maidan protests, through their mistreatment of the Russian-speaking population are at least equally, if not primarily, responsible for the current state of affairs. Moreover, they have made no attempts to adhere to the Minsk Protocol. Accusing Russia of sparking the conflict in Ukraine fails to reflect the reality of what is happening there.

Finally, these sanctions work against the interests of the Member States, whereas the United States, which is constantly urging the EU to renew its sanctions, continues to trade with Russia.

Does the Council therefore intend to review its position and lift the sanctions?