ENE-004024/2017Answer given by Mr Arias Cañeteon behalf of the Commission(4.9.2017)

The Commission is aware of the adoption of the updated Russian sanctions regime by the US government, which could enable sanctions that directly or indirectly have an impact on European firms. The final version of the bill, recently signed into law by the US President, takes into account most European concerns and ensures sanctions will only be applied after the US allies are consulted.

It is up to the US government to determine the reasons and justifications for its policy decisions and the EU and its Member States take active measures to ensure through all diplomatic and other channels that those decisions and actions are consistent with international agreements, law and principles as well as in the best interest of the EU and others. The Commision will closely monitor the implementation of the bill and is ready to take appropriate responses if EU interests are impacted.

As regards Nord Stream 2, while it is for commercial parties to decide which infrastructure is viable for them, the project raises some legal, political and economic questions. A project like Nord Stream 2, if built, cannot and should not be operated in a legal void or solely according to the law of a third country. As a result a special legal regime respecting fundamental principles of international and EU energy law needs to be established. To this end the Commission is seeking a mandate from the Council for an agreement with the Russian Federation on a regulatory framework.