Question for written answer E-001509/2018

to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Implementation of sanctions against Russia

In November 2017, the Russian company EN+ registered on the London Stock Exchange (LSE)¹.

EN+ does not explicitly fall under the EU sanctions regime imposed following Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea.

The company is owned by Oleg Deripaska, a close business partner of President Putin and director of Basic Element, one of the largest industrial groups in Russia. Basic Element has a 47% stake in Rusal, one of the largest aluminium-producing companies in the world.

EN+ has indicated that a portion of the funds it raises on the LSE will be used to repay its debt to VTB, a Russian state-owned bank that is subject to EU sanctions.

1. Is the VP/HR aware that EN+ entered a European stock exchange last year, becoming the first Russian company to do so since the imposition of EU sanctions?

2. How does the VP/HR assess EN+’s specific situation in relation to the EU sanctions that limit access to EU primary and secondary capital markets for certain Russian banks and companies, impose a ban on trade in arms and curtail Russian access to certain sensitive technologies and services that can be used for oil production and exploration?

3. Can the VP/HR clarify whether EU sanctions can in some cases also apply indirectly, and can she assess whether this could be the case for EN+?

¹ https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-en-ipo-pricing/russias-en-prices-ipo-at-14-per-gdr-valued-at-8-billion-idUKKBN1D30N0