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Answer given by Vice-President Mogherini  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(13.3.2019)

The United States (US) is and will remain an important partner of the European Union, as reaffirmed in the Joint EU-US Statement issued on 25 July 2018<sup>1</sup> which includes an agreement for strengthened cooperation with respect to energy. The EU is pursuing close and constant exchanges on all energy policy issues with the US, including via the EU-US energy dialogue. In this context, both parties are taking concrete steps to increase imports of US Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to the EU, which, since the meeting between President Juncker and President Trump of July 2018, have intensified, with more than 4.5 billion cubic metres imported<sup>2</sup>.

Transatlantic unity also remains a key underpinning factor in the EU and US' respective sanctions policies against Russia in response to its destabilising actions in Ukraine.

This is why, in August 2017, when the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) was enacted, the EU engaged in close dialogue with the US administration in order to mitigate any unintended negative consequences for the EU economy and energy security stemming from possible US sanctions. The discussions have taken place in a constructive atmosphere and the Commission is confident that this will continue in the future.

The Commission considers that decisions on the EU's energy security shall be taken within the institutional structures of the European Union. Regarding the regulatory framework for gas pipelines to and from third countries, the Commission has proposed in November 2017 an amendment to the Gas Directive. After the provisional political agreement between the European Parliament and the Council of 12 February 2019, this amendment will now be submitted for formal approval to the European Parliament and is expected to enter into force in the coming months.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint U.S.-EU Statement following President Juncker's visit to the White House, 25 July 2018, Washington: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-18-4687\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-18-4687_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> European Commission Press Release: EU-U.S. Joint Statement of 25 July: European Union imports of U.S. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) are on the rise. Brussels, 9 August 2018: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-4920\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4920_en.htm)