

**Question for written answer E-002742/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Mathilde Androuët (ID)

Subject: The economic crisis means we must lift sanctions against Russia

The EU has decided to renew its economic sanctions against Russia until 31 July 2020. Restrictions on economic cooperation have been in place since July 2014. Among other things, these have led to the suspension of a number of the EU's bilateral and regional cooperation programmes, and of all new financing operations in Russia by the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The major economic crisis that is engulfing Europe – on a scale not seen since the Second World War – is forcing the EU to review its position on divisive issues, such as protectionism and the relocation of industry. However, it also calls for increased trade with our mainland neighbours. Indeed, lifting sanctions against Russia could potentially stimulate our economies. Five hundred French companies already have a presence in Russia, making them – and indeed the whole of western Europe – the target of the sanctions backed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Washington.

Under these circumstances, does the Commission intend to make the first move in restoring economic and trade ties with Russia?