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E-005506/2020

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(18.1.2021)

The European Union (EU) does not recognise the extra-territorial application of sanctions adopted by third countries and considers it as contrary to international law. Moreover, the EU opposes unilateral sanctions affecting EU companies conducting legitimate and lawful business activities.

The High Representative/Vice-President's statement of 17 July 2020<sup>1</sup> restated this principle with a reference to both the extraterritorial application of the United States' sanctions and sanctions directly aimed at EU companies conducting legitimate business, as is the case of the legislation vis-à-vis Nord Stream 2. It is within the prerogatives and mandate of the High Representative/Vice-President to issue statements on foreign policy issues when they reflect agreed EU policies and positions.

The High Representative/Vice-President is aware of the European Parliament's various resolutions on the subject of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. It is central to note that the High Representative/Vice-President's statement reflects a principled stance on sanctions' policy and does not take a position on the merits of Nord Stream 2 as an energy or political project. The Commission's objective has always been to ensure that, if built, Nord Stream 2 operates in respect of EU law. Since the entry into force of the amended EU Gas Directive in 2019, the EU has clear rules in place that apply to all pipelines linking the European gas market to a third country. The Commission is closely following the transposition of the Directive. Germany has notified transposition, which is relevant for Nord Stream 2.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/83105/statement-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-us-sanctions\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/83105/statement-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-us-sanctions_en)