

**Question for written answer E-000377/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Catherine Griset (ID)**

Subject: Europe and Africa's dependence on one another

At a hearing in the French Senate on 17 June 2020, First Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans said: 'Africa is, in my view, a continent that depends on us and on which we depend. If we have not understood, as Europeans, that our fate is closely linked to that of Africa, we have not understood anything. For the European Commission, it is essential to prioritise relations with Africa, particularly in the field of climate and energy. African leaders have understood that we want to establish a relationship between equals, between countries that have the same goal, even if they are not at the same stage of development, and at the same time need to decarbonise their economies.'

As the meaning and scope of this statement is not immediately clear, it would be very helpful if the Commission were to explain it in order to avoid any misunderstanding.