

**Question for written answer E-000744/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)

Subject: Sanctions against the Russian Federation for espionage

On 23 September 2020, the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared two Russian officials from Russia's trade representation in Sofia persona non grata because they had been collecting confidential state information on the Bulgarian army. Then, on 18 December 2020, Bulgarian Prosecutor-General Ivan Geshev informed the Minister of Foreign Affairs about intelligence activities being conducted in Bulgaria by a foreign national with diplomatic immunity, with it later becoming clear that the person concerned was Colonel Vasily Sazanovich, a military attaché at the Russian Embassy in Sofia.

1. Does the Commission know about these events?
2. Is the Commission considering broadening the circle of persons concerned and extending the scope of sanctions against Russia?
3. Is it considering prolonging sanctions?