

**Question for written answer E-001273/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Mathilde Androuët (ID)**

**Subject:** Tougher US sanctions on European firms involved in Nord Stream 2

The 2021 US defence budget steps up the sanctions introduced in 2019 and 2020 against firms involved in the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, a project owned by Gazprom and co-financed by five European companies. The sanctions now target not only the firms selling, lending or providing the vessels used to lay the pipeline, but also those which 'enable' the vessels to be used. Moreover, the list of vessels black-listed by the US authorities has been expanded to include all those involved, either directly or indirectly, in pipe-laying 'activities'. Although the construction work is nearly finished and was set to resume for the 120 European firms involved, several have recently bowed to the pressure and withdrawn from the project. In July 2020, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the European Union, Josep Borrell, condemned the unilateral US decision to impose sanctions 'on European firms and interests'.

Will the Commission move beyond mere rhetoric and take action to counter these extraterritorial measures that constitute a violation of international law and a direct attack against our economic interests and national sovereignties?