

**Question for written answer E-001638/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Envisaging a recast of the Blocking Statute

In February 2021 the US State Department threatened to penalise European companies suspected of taking part in the construction of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline. In 1996 the European Union adopted a regulation – the Blocking Statute – aimed at dissuasion and ensuring protection against the extraterritorial application of sanctions by non-EU countries. The legislative act prohibits European companies from complying with the extraterritorial impact of US sanctions on pain of penalties laid down by each Member State. It has, though, remained largely inoperative and ineffective. On 19 January 2021 the Commission presented a strategy on the resilience of the EU's economic and financial system. This would aim, in particular, to improve the implementation of Union sanctions and the resilience of financial market infrastructures to extraterritoriality. In a similar vein, does the Commission envisage a recast of the Blocking Statute in order finally to render effective a clear support procedure for European companies by authorising them to defend their interests before the courts in non-EU countries, rather than penalising them?