

**Question for written answer E-004771/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Dietmar Köster (S&D)**

**Subject:** Increased energy prices and threat of sanctions

In light of the rise in energy prices, European citizens – and low-income households in particular – harbour significant and legitimate concerns. Despite increasing demand, the volumes delivered by the main countries supplying gas were lower in the first half of 2021 than in the corresponding period the previous year. Scholarly findings indicate that only gas imports from Russia and Algeria increased in the period concerned. Liquefied petroleum gas from the US, which until recently was advertised as 'freedom gas', is now mainly supplied to the Far East, where it can command higher prices. At the same time, on 23 September 2021, the US House of Representatives approved new provisions on sanctions against gas imports from Russia into the EU in relation to the completed Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline. The sanctions are expected to enter into force at the end of the year and to trigger further supply problems and price increases.

How does the Commission assess the threat of sanctions and does it intend to address this issue in its relations with the US?