Question for written answer E-005456/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: Algeria’s decision on supply of gas

Since 1996, Algeria has supplied Spain and Portugal with around 10 billion cubic metres of natural gas per year via the Maghreb-Europe Gas Pipeline¹, which passes through Morocco. Since 2011, it has also sent gas to Spain via a submarine pipeline called Medgaz, which has a maximum capacity of 8 billion cubic metres per year².

However, on 27 October 2021, Algeria confirmed that it would stop exporting gas via the pipeline that passes through Morocco, as the supply agreement would not be renewed. This decision was taken whilst relations between Morocco and Algeria remain tense, due in particular to the issue of Western Sahara.

1. On 27 October 2021, the Algerian Minister of Energy and Mining ensured his Spanish counterpart that the supply of gas would continue, and that the capacity of Medgaz would be increased to this end. Has the Commission, alongside the Spanish authorities, checked the feasibility of this proposal³?

2. Will it sanction Algeria, given that it appears to be using energy resources for political purposes?

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² ‘Another pipeline, the Medgaz submarine pipeline, has also been used to send Algerian gas to Spain since 2011, but it is already operating at its maximum capacity of 8 billion cubic metres per year’; https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2021/10/28/l-algerie-ne-passera-plus-par-le-maroc-pour-exporter-son-gaz-en-espagne_6100181_3212.html