

**Question for written answer E-000714/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Eva Kaili (S&D)

Subject: EastMed pipeline support and the EU's need to diversify its gas imports

In the light of the escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine, the viability of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and Europe's energy security are being challenged. Annalena Baerbock, the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, has stated that the natural gas pipeline between Germany and Russia would be among the economic sanctions implemented if Russia invades Ukraine. Considering that the Ukraine-Russia crisis might have further negative implications for the average European gas consumer, it is clear that the EU must seek alternatives to decrease its dependence on Russian gas, which accounts for approximately 40 % of the EU's gas consumption.

At the same time, the EastMed pipeline is in danger of being abandoned after the US recently withdrew its political support for the project. The EastMed pipeline project would improve Europe's energy security by diversifying its routes and in particular its sources of natural gas, as well as by providing opportunities for economic development in the eastern Mediterranean region.

With tensions between Ukraine and Russia possibly affecting the relationship of the latter with the EU, how does the Commission plan to support the EastMed project, which would contribute to diversifying the EU's natural gas imports?