

**Question for written answer E-001169/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Jaak Madison (ID)

Subject: South Africa's support for Putin

On 17 March 2022, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said that the war in Ukraine could have been avoided if NATO had not expanded eastward¹. Although he said that the use of force cannot be condoned, he refused to condemn the actions by Russia. South Africa also abstained from the General Assembly resolution which was voted on in March².

The country's open support of Russia follows a controversial move towards the expropriation of property. Mineral rights have already been expropriated and placed in 'trust' with the South African Government.

The European Union is South Africa's biggest trading partner and the country benefits from EUR 241 million in EU development funding under the Development Cooperation Instrument. We can no longer trust partners that do not protect property rights and who choose to blame NATO for the war in Ukraine.

1. Does the Commission agree that development aid given to South Africa should be reconsidered given the clear choice it has made to side with Russia?
2. What is its message to EU investors who are concerned about the possible expropriation of their property?
3. Does it still consider South Africa to be a reliable trading partner?

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/safricas-ramaphosa-blames-nato-russias-war-ukraine-2022-03-17/>

² United Nations General Assembly resolution of 2 March 2022 on the aggression against Ukraine (A/ES-11/L.1).