

Question for written answer E-003272/2022

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Tom Vandenkendelaere (PPE)

Subject: Updating the joint communication of 13 October 2021 on a European strategy for the Arctic

In October 2021, the European Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy published a joint communication on a new EU strategy for a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous Arctic. This placed a particular emphasis on a new geopolitical context. However, since October 2021 this context has changed dramatically. Since March 2022, the second Russian invasion of Ukraine has increasingly confronted the Union with urgent security and defence needs and an energy supply crisis. These developments have not only drastically altered our society in Europe but also the challenges facing the Union as a 'global actor'.

1. Does the Vice-President / High Representative consider an update of the aforementioned Joint Communication desirable/necessary in the light of the far-reaching geopolitical developments since the start of the Russian war in Ukraine?
2. If so, what steps will (or could) be taken by the Vice-President / High Representative and the European Commission to increase and improve the involvement of Member States in the implementation of the updated Union strategy?