

Question for written answer E-003443/2022

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

Rule 138

Javi López (S&D)

Subject: Alleged sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines and protection of critical European infrastructure

The alleged sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea on 26 September highlights the need for the EU to take effective steps to protect our critical infrastructure in order to safeguard our supply chains.

For years, we have been seeing a rise in attempted interference by certain state actors in our internal affairs and in our election processes. Attacks of this kind, known as 'hybrid attacks', pose a great danger to our democracies. This alleged sabotage takes these attacks one step further. It is an extremely serious attack; responsibility for it must be clearly and urgently established.

1. Does the Vice-President / High Representative have information on the status of the investigation into this event? What does he consider the consequences will be if it is established that state actors are responsible for the sabotage?
2. Is he aware of any alerts concerning strange movements in the area in the hours prior to the attack?
3. What specific measures are planned to protect other critical underwater infrastructure that may be attacked, such as oil pipelines or optical-fibre cables?

Submitted: 20.10.2022