

Question for written answer E-003855/2022

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

Rule 138

Peter van Dalen (PPE)

Subject: Increased gas exports from Russia to Azerbaijan

There are reports that Gazprom in Russia has recently concluded a new contract with SOCAR in Azerbaijan for the delivery of one billion cubic metres of gas between November 2022 and March 2023¹. The gas is said to be intended for the domestic market in Azerbaijan, given its own gas needs, including for increased exports to the EU, as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by President Aliyev and Commission President von der Leyen on 18 July 2022.

1. Does the Vice-President / High Representative agree that the aim of the MoU, which is to reduce European dependence on Russian gas, is seriously undermined by increased gas exports from Russia to Azerbaijan?
2. How will the Commission provide a cast-iron guarantee that the MoU does not indirectly encourage Russian gas exports?
3. How does the Commission justify the gas agreement with Azerbaijan, bearing in mind that the country can only meet a small proportion of European gas demand, while the conflict with Armenia and the human rights situation in Azerbaijan make it clear that the country does not share European values and therefore cannot be viewed as a reliable partner?

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¹ <https://eurasianet.org/azerbajians-russian-gas-deal-raises-uncomfortable-questions-for-europe>, <https://www.intellinews.com/relaunch-of-russian-gas-supplies-to-azerbaijan-raises-questions-about-baku-brussels-deal-263151/>, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/russias-gazprom-starts-gas-shipments-to-azerbaijan/2742137>