

**Question for written answer E-000447/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU Arctic policy and future actions to be taken

The Arctic is increasingly facing environmental and political challenges. The effects of climate change are more severe and the intensified interest in natural resources and new transport routes has created tensions. More countries are keen to participate and exercise influence in the region. Lately, we have seen the security situation in the Arctic deteriorate, especially after Russia's illegal war against Ukraine, which has led to an increased Russian military presence and even more provocative political positions.

In 2021, the joint communication on the Arctic (JOIN(2021)0027) stated that the EU's engagement in Arctic matters was a geopolitical necessity. Engagement should be strong in many aspects, such as strategy, climate change, innovation and development as well as with the people living in the Arctic.

In the light of the above:

1. In the current geopolitical situation, how does the Commission see its future role in the Arctic region and when will the Commission propose an EU strategy on Arctic security?
2. How will it further support research and development in the Arctic?
3. Will the Commission contribute to energy production in the Arctic and will it help to create a new energy networks and make more use of the available renewable energies there?

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