

Question for written answer E-001345/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Possible mediation of Central Asian states in reselling EU sanctioned goods to Russia

According to various reports, last year Central Asian countries' trade with Russia grew on average by 60 to 80%. For example, according to data for January-October 2022, Kazakh companies exported over EUR 500 million more in electronics and mobile telephones to Russia or 18 times more than during the same period in 2021. Due to the increased export of dual-use products to Central Asia, components manufactured in the EU can be found in Russian military equipment and armaments used in the war against Ukraine. It can therefore be presumed that the sanctions imposed by the EU against the Russian Federation are being circumvented by re-routing trade flows through third countries, including Central Asian states.

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Has the Commission noticed changes in trade flows which would indicate that Central Asian states are deliberately reselling sanctioned goods imported from the EU to Russia?
2. Does the Commission plan to develop a methodology and conduct a study to assess the extent to which the increase in trading volumes is linked to Central Asian actions involving the re-exporting of EU products to Russia?
3. What countermeasures would the Commission take if the mediation of Central Asian countries in reselling EU sanctioned goods to Russia is confirmed?

Submitted: 25.4.2023