

Question for written answer E-002399/2023

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Request to the European Union to intervene in Niger to counter rising energy prices and stabilise the country, staving off an increase in migratory flows

On 26 July 2023 in Niamey, Niger, the ruling President, Mohamed Bazoum, was removed from office in a coup led by General Abdourahamane Tchiani.

According to the World Nuclear Association, Niger produced 2 020 metric tons of uranium in 2022, representing almost 5 % of world mining output.

Statistics from the Euratom Supply Agency for 2020 classed Niger the EU's largest supplier, accounting for 24.26 % of all uranium imported into Europe. Most of the imports from Niger are enriched in France and Spain, but the uranium can also go for use in other Member States.

The instability in Niger is also liable to impact strongly on migratory flows, with Niger being located in the middle of one of the Mediterranean routes.

In light of the above, could the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy answer the following questions?

- 1) What strategy has the EU pursued to ensure security of energy supply for the Member States by countering the increase in prices and following up on the REPowerEU commitment to 'secure alternative sources of uranium and boost the conversion, enrichment and fuel fabrication capacities available in Europe or in EU's global partners'?
- 2) What action has the Commission taken to restore stability in Niger, following the moves by systemic rival countries such as China and Russia, hence countering the increase in migratory pressures along the Mediterranean route?

Submitted: 3.8.2023