

**Question for written answer E-002754/2023**

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

Rule 138

**Marc Botenga** (The Left)

**Subject:** Statements by the EU Special Representative for the Sahel on the humanitarian impact of the sanctions against Niger

In the wake of the coup d'état in Niger on 26 July 2023, the European Union immediately ended its financial support to Niger and suspended all security cooperation with it. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has adopted sanctions against Niger.

In an interview with the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*, the EU Special Representative for the Sahel, Emanuela Del Re, stated: 'The sanctions are beginning to have an impact: lack of medicines, food, electricity – even more so than before. If we want to weaken the junta, we need to maintain the sanctions'.<sup>1</sup>

In the European Parliament, however, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy said that he had requested 'an exemption from the ban on imports to Niger for humanitarian aid'.<sup>2</sup>

The two statements are clearly contradictory.

1. Can the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission say exactly what impact the EU's sanctions are having on Niger and which sanctions Ms Del Re welcomed?
2. Can the HR/VP clarify which statements – those of the Special Representative or his own – reflect the EU's political stance on Niger?
3. Does he distance himself from the Special Representative's remarks?

Submitted: 20.9.2023

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<sup>1</sup>

[https://www.repubblica.it/esteri/2023/08/09/news/niger\\_intervista\\_emanuela\\_del\\_re\\_rappresentante\\_ue\\_sahel-410484085/](https://www.repubblica.it/esteri/2023/08/09/news/niger_intervista_emanuela_del_re_rappresentante_ue_sahel-410484085/).

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CRE-9-2023-09-12-ITM-012\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CRE-9-2023-09-12-ITM-012_EN.html).