

Question for written answer E-003164/2023

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

Rule 138

Tineke Strik (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Treaty compliance of bilateral talks between the Prime Minister of Hungary and the President of the Russian Federation in the light of EU sanctions

On 17 October, the Prime Minister of Hungary held bilateral talks with the President of the Russian Federation against whom the International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for war crimes. In these talks, the Hungarian Prime Minister advocated for the end of EU sanctions against Russia, while Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues.

Article 24, paragraph 3 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) states that 'Member States shall support the Union's external and security policy actively and unreservedly in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity and shall comply with the Union's action in this area.' Moreover, it states that 'They shall refrain from any action which is contrary to the interests of the Union or likely to impair its effectiveness as a cohesive force in international relations. The Council and the High Representative shall ensure compliance with these principles.'

1. Does the VP/HR consider that the meeting of the Hungarian Prime Minister and his plea for the end of EU sanctions against Russia is a violation of Article 24(3) TEU?
2. If not, why not?
3. If so, what actions will the VP/HR undertake to fulfil his duty to ensure compliance with the principle stated in Article 24(3) TEU?

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