

**Question for written answer E-000565/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: Opinion piece by HR/VP Borrell in l'OBS of 30 January 2024

In the opinion piece mentioned in the title of this question, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission writes that the EU and Member States have supplied over EUR 30 billion worth of defence equipment to Ukraine and trained over 40 000 Ukrainian soldiers within the EU.

He goes on to write that 'the EU should provide long-range missiles and other advanced weapons systems to Ukraine'.

The call to supply ever more powerful and advanced weaponry to Ukraine implies the possibility of an uncontrollable escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, with potentially dramatic consequences for the security of citizens in the EU, which could be recognised by Russia as being an active belligerent party.

HR/VP Borrell also claims that 'EU sanctions have weakened the Russian war machine'. However, in 2023, Russia's economy had grown by 3.6 % more than both those of the Union and the United States.

1. Does the Commission support the HR/VP's call for uncontrollable escalation?
2. Has an analysis been carried out to assess the impact of sanctions on the Union's economy?
3. What implications does the Commission draw from this evaluation of sanctions against Russia?

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