

ORAL QUESTION H-1087/06
for Question Time at the part-session in February 2007
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Eugenijus Gentvilas
to the Council

Subject: Economic sanctions against Belarus

The Council has taken steps aimed at temporarily suspending access for Belarus to the Community's generalised system of preferences. In my view, the introduction of such economic sanctions contradicts the document entitled 'What the European Union could bring to Belarus', which was presented by Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner on 21 November 2006. The measures taken against Belarus by the EU thus lack coherence and are hard to foresee.

Did the Council take account of the following aspects when considering initiatives aimed at imposing economic sanctions on Belarus:

- The economic damage suffered by EU Member States that maintain active trade relations with Belarus, i.e. primarily Lithuania, Poland and Latvia?
- The possibility that Russia might decide not to raise the price of gas for Belarus or might lessen its threats, thereby gaining the support of the population and presenting EU policy as being hostile to or indeed designed to isolate Belarus?

Tabled: 20.12.2006
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