

Question for oral answer O-000055/2020

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

Rule 136

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Subject: Europe's energy independence and the extraterritoriality of US law

The implementation of a new sanctions regime by the United States against European companies working on the Nord Stream 2 project is worrying. Moreover, it illustrates the difficulties that European leaders face in protecting and supporting the continent's energy independence.

These sanctions will have a retroactive effect and will target, in the words of Senator Ted Cruz, who introduced the bill, 'anyone involved in the project in any capacity'.

Whether one may be for or against Nord Stream 2, one cannot accept such an extension of the scope of US law. In spite of its title, rather than protecting Europe's energy security, this bill will allow Washington to impose itself on the European energy market in an arbitrary manner.

1. How does the Commission, which prides itself on protecting European companies engaged in lawful activities, intend to oppose this new sanctions regime and its retroactive nature?
2. What does the High Representative mean when he refers to the establishment of 'an enhanced sanctions mechanism that will improve Europe's resilience to the effects of extraterritorial sanctions imposed by third countries'?

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