

**Question for written answer P-008089/2014
to the Council**

Rule 130

Indrek Tarand (Verts/ALE) and Rebecca Harms (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Upcoming review of EU sanctions against the Russian Federation

1. In view of Russia's annexation of Crimea, Russia's non-compliance with the Minsk Agreement, and the non-withdrawal of Russian troops from eastern Ukraine, is the Council considering easing or reinforcing the sanctions against Russia as part of the upcoming review? If it is considering easing the sanctions, how would this allow the EU to improve the new, deteriorated security situation that Russia has created in Europe?
2. Is the Council considering whether to recommend suspending high-profile international cultural, economic or sports events in Russia, such as the 2015 FINA World Swimming Championships and the 2018 FIFA World Cup? If not, why not?
3. Given the need to end the crisis in Ukraine as quickly as possible by means of non-military measures, does the Council not agree that in order to achieve this goal it is best to impose specific sanctions that would have the greatest effect on the Russian state economy, including the gas sector?