

**Priority question for written answer P-004114/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Grzegorz Tobiszowski (ECR)

Subject: Exclusion of cement industry from list of sanctions imposed on Belarus

The Member States have approved a sanctions list that includes the potash, oil and banking sectors. The exponentially growing importation of cement into Poland from Belarus poses a threat to the operations of Polish cement factories and to jobs, and runs counter to the objectives of climate policy. Cement production in Belarus is not so modern or subject to restrictions, which leads to higher CO₂ emissions globally. In addition, the need for transport over longer distances increases the level of air pollution. In the last five years, cement imports from Belarus have increased by almost 300%, from 119 000 tonnes in 2016 to over 440 000 tonnes in 2020. In economic terms, this is a phenomenon that puts Polish plants, burdened by high CO₂ emission costs, in an uneven playing field.

1. Could the Commission state what was behind the decision to sanction some materials but not others, and what criteria guided it?
2. Can the Commission state why cement was not included on the sanctions list?