

**Priority question for written answer P-005375/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Witold Jan Waszczykowski** (ECR)

Subject: Political corruption in the EU linked to Russian energy companies

The number of former politicians from EU countries working for Russian energy companies continues to rise. They include former heads of government and cabinet members such as Gerhard Schröder, Wolfgang Schäuble, François Fillon, Karin Kneissl and Paavo Lipponen.

Centrally-controlled Russian energy companies have shown hostility towards Russia's neighbours for years. For example, the gas crises in Ukraine and Moldova.

Russian energy companies are deliberately destabilising the EU energy market, as we are currently seeing with Russia reducing its supply to the EU to force concessions on the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline.

The work done for Russian energy companies by the above-mentioned top-level politicians constitutes political corruption. Political decisions taken by former and current heads of government which are geopolitically and financially unfavourable (including the decision to build the Nord Stream pipelines) raise questions about these individuals' motivations. This situation also sets a precedent and encourages current and future leaders to pursue pro-Putin policies in order to secure well-paid positions at the end of their political careers.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission see a conflict of interest for the above-mentioned individuals?
2. In view of this situation, is the Commission prepared to take action to prevent such political corruption, including freezing the European assets of former European politicians who refuse to stop working for Russian energy companies or politicians who take up such positions in the future?