Priority question for written answer P-003090/2022 to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 138
Antonio López-Istúriz White (PPE)

Subject: Revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and Russia’s ability to circumvent European sanctions

Since Russia launched its attack on Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the EU has been united in adopting several sets of punitive sanctions against Russia. To ensure that these measures have their intended impact, it is a priority that they be implemented effectively. Any gaps in the existing sanctions mechanisms need to be identified and addressed. Most importantly, there must be no new loopholes allowing Russia to escape sanctions.

Russia makes no secret of its intention to learn from Iran’s experience and expertise in circumventing international sanctions. On 22 June, Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was in Tehran to discuss a new era of strategic cooperation between the two nations, including economic cooperation.

1. What concrete measures have been put in place to ensure that a revival of the JCPOA will not become a tool that enables Russia to circumvent European sanctions?

2. How will the Vice-President / High Representative ensure that the sanctions relief granted to Iran under the JCPOA will not result in oil swap arrangements whereby Iran could import Russian oil for domestic consumption and sell the same quantity of oil on Russia’s behalf?

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1 https://www.politico.eu/article/russia-eyes-iran-as-sanctions-busting-backdoor-for-oil-sales