

**Priority question for written answer P-003901/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Impact of European sanctions against Russia on the Lukoil-ISAB refinery at Priolo Gargallo

As of 6 December, the Lukoil-ISAB petrochemical hub in Sicily, the fifth-largest in Europe, will be in danger of closing down, seriously affecting the livelihoods of the 1 000 people employed by it directly and 1 930 employed in ancillary sectors. This would deal a devastating blow to the entire Syracuse industrial zone between Priolo, Augusta and Melilli.

The plant is owned by the Russian Lukoil company and refines 20% of the oil consumed in Italy, importing from Russia alone. It will therefore be badly affected by the European sanctions due to come into effect on 5 December.

Pending the general strike scheduled for 18 November, the options being discussed by mediators include the granting of state-backed loans or seeking a special derogation from the 2023 sanctions specifically for Lukoil-ISAB.

Since February 2022, mechanisms to avoid 'collateral' fallout from EU sanctions, including exemptions, special derogations and compensatory payments for strategic sectors, have been on the drawing board.

In view of this:

1. Has the Commission been contacted by the Italian authorities regarding the Lukoil-ISAB situation in Sicily?
2. Is it aware of further similar cases in other European countries and what solutions have been adopted?
3. Has it earmarked specific compensation payments for the sectors most affected by EU sanctions against Russia or does it plan to do so?

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