

**Question for written answer E-004956/2021**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Antonio Tajani (PPE), Massimiliano Salini (PPE)**

Subject: Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline (MEG)

The *Maghreb-Europe Gas Pipeline* (MEG) is a 1400-kilometre pipeline that since 1996 has been transporting more than 10 billion cubic metres of gas per year from Algeria to the territories of Spain and Portugal, passing through Morocco.

On 31 October, the President of Algeria, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, ordered the Algerian state-owned oil company Sonatrach to cease its trade relationship with the Moroccan National Office for Electricity and Drinking Water (ONEE), thereby terminating the MEG contract.

Algeria's unilateral decision to stop trading with Rabat raises important questions about the Union's energy dependence, especially in view of the rise in the prices of raw materials and, in particular, of natural gas, which has a great impact on the electricity and gas bills of European citizens.

In the light of the above, given that the MEG was also built with funds from the European Investment Bank, can the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy say:

1. whether he intends to engage in talks with the Algerian Government with a view to extending the use of the MEG, thus ensuring the security of energy supply to the Union;
2. what diplomatic action he intends to take to deal with the crisis between Algeria and Morocco which led to the failure to renew the gas pipeline contract?