

**Priority question for written answer P-004842/2021
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Beata Szydło (ECR)

Subject: Statement by Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans to the media on 15
October 2021

Speaking to the media on 15 October 2021, Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans said 'we have no reason to believe [Russia] is putting pressure on the market or manipulating it'. This is at odds with the facts: gas levels in Gazprom's storage facilities in the EU are at the lowest levels they have been for many years ahead of the winter, in contrast to the normal storage levels of other market participants; Gazprom has reduced gas transmission and transmission capacity reservations and is not reserving additional transmission capacity; Gazprom has restricted the sale of gas on the spot market. These measures are distorting the normal price-setting processes, affecting individual consumers and industry and making the just energy transition impossible. Members of the European Parliament drew attention to this situation in a letter to the Commission, in which they called for an investigation into manipulation by Gazprom. In its Communication COM(2021)660, the Commission said it would investigate indications for any possible anti-competitive behaviour in the energy market and together with ACER and national authorities ensure REMIT is effectively enforced.

1. How should the Commission Vice-President's statement be understood in the light of the actions announced by the Commission, and does it not prejudge the outcome of the Commission's actions?
2. What specific action is the Commission taking and what action is it planning to take to investigate anti-competitive behaviour (including by Gazprom) in the EU market and in the EU's neighbourhood (Moldova)?