

**Question for written answer E-007304/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)

Subject: Environmental impact of shale gas

In September 2014 a study was conducted by scientists at the University of Manchester on the environmental impact of shale gas. Professor Adisa Azapagic and a group of researchers looked at 11 different environmental effects of extracting shale gas by using hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking'.

The researchers compared shale gas to other energy sources, including the fossil-fuel alternatives of offshore wind and solar power. According to their findings, shale gas was better than wind or solar power for 4 out of the 11 environmental impacts. These included the depletion of natural resources, toxicity to humans, and the impact on fresh water and marine organisms. Shale gas was also better than solar power on the issue of ozone layer depletion.

The manufacturing of solar panels is, as Professor Azapagic points out, both 'very energy and resource-intensive, while their electrical output is quite low in a country like the UK, as we don't have as much sunshine'. In other cases, under the best conditions, shale gas could also be preferable to imported liquefied natural gas.

1. What is the Commission's position with regard to the environmental impact of shale gas?
2. How will the Commission prevent damage to drinking water resources?