

**Question for written answer E-009661/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Regulatory development of the South Stream pipeline project

When the Commission, with Decision C(2013)2949, decided to exempt the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) from the requirements laid down in Directive 2009/73/EC, it paved the way for the creation of the TAP.

Among the motivations for the exemption was the stated need to diversify energy supply sources. In the case of the TAP, this would amount to an influx of 10 billion cubic metres of natural gas (bcm) starting in 2019. This corresponds to 2.25 % of the 444 bcm consumed by the Union in 2012.

Some time later, in June 2014, the Commission cut tens of millions of euros in regional development funds in order to force Bulgaria to stop work on the South Stream project, which in this particular case involved the construction of offshore infrastructure that is outside the scope of the directive.

Pursuant to Articles 10 and 11(2) of Directive 2009/73/EC and Article 3 of Regulation 715/2009, the Commission has the final power of decision on each project.

In view of the Union's strategy regarding the need to diversify energy supply and secure reliable sources, and in view of the highly destabilising intervention against Bulgaria (which has had five governments in eighteen months), can the Commission state whether it intends to unlock the regulatory development of the South Stream project, and, if so, can it explain how it intends to do so?