

**Question for written answer E-011100/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Proposed hydrocarbons law in Spain

On 12 December last the Spanish Council of Ministers approved a draft project to amend the Law on Hydrocarbons, which will include tax incentives for landowners and regional authorities to carry out prospecting operations. These prospecting operations will also involve the technique of hydraulic fracturing, or *fracking*, to obtain shale gas. The company Repsol has recently initiated prospecting operations in the Canary Isles, which have been opposed by the regional government and have provoked protests by islanders.

On 21 November 2012 the European Parliament approved Resolution 2011/2309(INI) on industrial, energy and other aspects of shale gas and oil, in terms of which it recommended the exercise of caution in the extraction of shale gas.

1. Is the Commission aware of this draft law?
2. In the ambit of its European energy policy, what are the Commission's recommendations in this regard?
3. Does the Commission consider that it is appropriate, bearing in mind the current level of oil prices and the need for alternative, non-polluting energy sources, to create incentives for hydrocarbon extraction?