

**Question for written answer E-001953/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
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Subject: European energy model

A number of companies specialising in the prospecting and extraction of gas via unconventional means are advocating that the effects of drilling operations be offset by large amounts of financial compensation. In the current economic climate, such a move might tempt many municipalities to focus solely on the potential financial benefits and authorise prospecting with a view to filling the public coffers, underestimating the threat that the drilling operations pose to the environment and the 2030 environmental targets.

In view of the above, what action is the Commission thinking of taking to prevent the damage that prospecting could cause to the environment in the EU?

Given the problems that have arisen from the Castor project in Spain, is the Commission planning to monitor fracking and oil probe projects in European waters in order to protect EU citizens?