

**Question for written answer E-002098/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Gas interconnections

In the course of meetings I have held with firms in the gas sector, they have expressed their concern regarding the decision by France to exclude from the projects of common European interest the Val de Saone - Eridan connection, which allows the MIDCAT interconnection to be developed. Instead, they plan to reinforce the Val de Saone and Gascogne-Midi projects, which do not affect Spain and therefore, since they have no cross-border effects, cannot be deemed CIPs. As has been shown, MIDCAT is a project of great European interest, given that it is beneficial both in terms of securing supply and in completing the internal market.

Is the Commission aware of this change of priorities in France?

Does it not consider that MIDCAT plays a vital role in protecting the EU's energy supplies and completing the internal energy market and that it should receive the appropriate funding for its development?

How does the Commission propose to achieve the goal set by the Council of reaching 10 % interconnection if connections such as MIDCAT, which are essential for breaching the isolation of the Iberian Peninsula, are penalised?