

**Question for written answer E-006409/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL), Ely Schlein (S&D), Benedek Jávor (Verts/ALE), Ana Gomes (S&D)
and Ignazio Corrao (EFDD)**

Subject: The unbalanced composition of the European Science and Technology Network on Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction

The British daily newspaper *The Guardian* reports that environmentalist groups have walked out of the European Science and Technology Network on Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction Advice, an expert panel on unconventional hydrocarbons, which is expected to inform the Commission's future decisions on the exploration of shale gas in Europe. They claim that the expert group has been taken over by industry groups who are using it as a platform to promote fracking.¹

Taking these claims into account, the Commission is asked the following:

1. How does it explain the fact that of the 60 external members participating in the network, more than 40 % represent the fracking industry and only 10 % represent civil-society organisations? Is it convinced that this will lead to a balanced discussion on fracking?
2. How does it explain the fact that it is advised by an unbalanced network on a highly sensitive issue such as fracking?
3. Why has it ignored the recommendations of the European Ombudsman on expert groups?

¹ <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/15/green-groups-accuse-eu-shale-gas-panel-of-fracking-lobby-takeover>.