

**Question for written answer E-006433/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE), Molly Scott Cato (Verts/ALE) and Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Shale gas R&D projects financed by the Horizon 2020 programme

On 23 February 2015, the Commission hosted a conference entitled 'Shale gas in a low-carbon Europe – the role of research', where it was announced that DG Research would be launching four R&D projects on shale gas, worth EUR 11.6 million and financed via Horizon 2020. Two of these projects were presented at the conference, and the impression was given that each was at an advanced stage of development.

1. Please can the Commission explain why no information has been made available via the event website or the Horizon 2020 website concerning these projects financed with taxpayers' money? If this is because contracts have not yet been finalised, why were these projects promoted at a public event organised by the Commission?

According to the latest IPCC report, we must leave the majority of known fossil fuel reserves unextracted and unburnt if we are to keep within 2 degrees of warming. Therefore, to avoid furthering the risk of dangerous climate change, fracking for shale gas should not take place.

2. How do shale gas research projects financed through Horizon 2020 fulfil the programme's general or specific objectives established in the regulation under promoting 'secure, clean and efficient energy sources'<sup>1</sup>?
3. Can the Commission explain why the objectives set out in the regulation and those established in the implementing work programme do not match?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/secure-clean-and-efficient-energy>