

**Question for written answer E-006771/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Radiation risks and health hazards of hydraulic fracturing (fracking)

In January 2012 the Commission's DG Energy released a 100-page report on 'Unconventional Gas in Europe', primarily assessing the situation in France, Germany, Poland and Sweden. It has a section on environmental liability, but makes no mention of radon pollution¹.

However, it is demonstrably clear from independent US scientific studies that some shale gas deposits contain as much as 30 times the radiation that is found in normal background levels².

Professor James Ring of Hamilton College in New York State stresses: 'The radon and natural gas coming from the shale mix together and travel together as the gas is piped to customers. This is a serious health hazard, as radon – being a gas – is breathed into the lungs and lodges there to decay, doing damage to the lung's tissue and eventually leading to lung cancer.'³

In view of the above, can the Commission explain what studies have been commissioned and published (by the Commission or otherwise) since January 2012 that examine the radon risks to shale gas consumers from burning the gas on hobs and in stoves in kitchens?

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/studies/doc/2012_unconventional_gas_in_europe.pdf

² <http://gdacc.org/2012/01/10/radon-in-natural-gas-from-marcellus-shale-by-marvin-resnikoff-radioactive-waste-management-associates/>

³ <http://www.hamilton.edu/index.cfm>