

**Question for written answer E-010074/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)**

Subject: Natural gas as a key driver for the energy transition

The key role that natural gas could play in the energy transition was discussed during the 26th World Gas Conference held in Paris a few months ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Two challenges have to be addressed in the forthcoming decades: ensuring energy for a growing population and ensuring cleaner energy for better living conditions.

Given the urgency of the problem of climate change, natural gas has two points in its favour. Firstly, it is the most appropriate fossil energy for meeting the objective of limiting global warming to 2°C by 2100. It emits about half the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that coal does when used in power generation. Secondly, it smooths the intermittent production of renewable energy and can serve as an alternative supply until storage solutions for solar and wind energy have reached maturity.

What measures are planned with a view to simultaneously boosting natural gas implementation and reducing oil and coal usage?

Another point that has been, and will continue to be, the subject of discussion is the use of carbon pricing to promote cleaner sources of energy. What position will the European Union take on the matter?