

**Question for written answer E-015270/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: EU support for controversial gas pipelines

In mid-November 2015 the Commission decided to include in its list of 'projects of common interest' proposed gas pipelines that could be used as a European extension of the Turkish Stream pipeline, a Russian project. The Turkish Stream is a way for Russia to avoid using Ukraine as a transit country.

The list of key energy infrastructure projects was annexed to the Commission's report on the state of the Energy Union. Projects on the list will be granted licenses more quickly and will benefit from more favourable regulatory conditions and funding from the EU's 'Connecting Europe' project.

The Commission's decision to include these controversial investments on the list of projects of common interest could give rise to serious concerns, especially in the light of the EU's aspiration – as laid down in key strategic documents – to reduce its dependence on Russia as a single external gas provider.

Will the Commission explain how it will guarantee that the pipelines included in the list of projects of common interest will not weaken the EU's energy security and make the EU more dependent on gas supplies from Russia?