

**Question for written answer E-000141/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Francesc Gambús (PPE)**

Subject: Midcat

Ten years ago, the need arose to build Midcat, the gas pipeline that is supposed to connect Catalonia and Spain with France and which has twice been included on the list of EU projects of common interest. However, France has not yet definitively given the green light to the project.

Spain is supposed to build 104 kilometres of pipeline and a compressor station, at a total cost of EUR 150 million. France, meanwhile, through its operator, TIGF, pledged to carry out work to the tune of EUR 320 million. However, according to published reports, the gas operator in northern France, GRTE, considers the cost of the project to be 'excessive' and has suggested to the regulator that this could mean future increases in the price of natural gas for French consumers.

It is vital to improve the interconnection between Catalonia and France, since this project could help us move towards a genuine energy union in Europe and to strengthen security of supply in the EU.

1. Is the Commission aware of the French Government's energy interconnection plans?
2. What measures will the Commission take, within the limits of its powers, to ensure that Midcat is actually built?