

**Question for written answer E-003634/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Barbara Kappel (ENF)

Subject: Security of gas supply

The package concerning the security of gas supply includes welcome proposals concerning regional plans, templates and content, but there are fundamental questions about the definition of certain proposals which could have a massive impact on the implementation of the package.

1. The way in which solidarity is to operate depends on the definitions of 'protected customer' and 'supply standard', which vary greatly between Member States. It is therefore not clear when the solidarity principle can apply and to what extent neighbours must accept this. How will the Commission resolve this inconsistency?
2. The definition of the regions is unclear and lacks transparency. Austria, for example, is not included in the same region as Germany or Slovakia, although both of them have important pipeline connections. This creates a duality between regions and neighbours, which will generate additional red tape and obscure responsibilities. How will the Commission solve this problem?
3. The gas flow capacity in both directions is to be regulated by a new procedure, based on the Infrastructure Regulation but assigned to a different authority. How does the Commission justify the decision not to assign the lead role to national regulatory authorities here?