

**Question for written answer E-007167/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Shale gas extraction and imports

In January 2016, Total was re-granted an exploration permit for shale gas reserves in the Drôme and Ardèche regions. In early September 2016, Pétrosvibri carried out shale gas test drilling around Lake Geneva, angering the Swiss and the people of Savoy.

Yet, in March and May 2016, the U.S. Geological Survey was already warning against the considerable risk of earthquakes linked to underground hydraulic fracturing and to the process of injecting wastewater into the ground. In 2015 alone, more than 900 earthquakes with a magnitude greater than 4 were registered in the USA following these extractions.

In its statements on shale gas, the Commission has often mentioned the health and environmental risks linked to pollution and global warming, particularly those linked to methane emissions.

1. To what extent is it taking account of the risk of earthquakes resulting from shale gas extraction?
2. By encouraging shale gas imports from the USA in its energy security strategy (16.2.2016), is it not also encouraging the extraction of this gas which is harmful to the environment?
3. Should it not review its strategy?