

**Question for written answer E-000419/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Construction of new pipelines from Canada to the US, despite objections on environmental grounds

US President Donald Trump yesterday (24/01/2017) signed a number of presidential decrees approving the Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines worth several million dollars.

The Keystone XL pipeline alone will be over 1900 kilometres long and will carry petroleum extracted from the Alberta oil sands in Canada to US refineries in Nebraska.

The construction of this pipelines had been prevented by former US President

Obama, representing a yardstick of US commitment to tackling climate change.

Many non-governmental organisations are expressing serious concerns as to the adverse environmental impact of this pipeline construction project, observing also that extraction from oil sands produces 2-3 times more carbon dioxide than a conventional drilling operations.

In view of the stance adopted by Mr Trump with regard to the Paris Conference and of the intention of the US to withdraw from the resulting agreement:

Can the Commission say whether construction of the pipelines is in breach of the Paris Agreement?

Does it consider that these latest developments represent a backward step with regard to the prospects for global cooperation to tackle climate change?