

**Question for written answer E-002999/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Compatibility of the Projects of Common Interest (PCI) list with the 'energy efficiency first' principle, climate targets and Parliament's authority

In 2013 and 2015 the Commission adopted the first two Union Lists for Projects of Common Interest. Since then, numerous gas infrastructure projects have benefited from the advantages of being a PCI. Contrary to the aim of the Connecting Europe Facility, twice the amount of EU money was granted to gas PCIs than for all other PCIs<sup>1</sup>. Given the significant climate impact of gas, particularly fracked gas, due to methane emissions<sup>2</sup>, the need to rapidly reduce greenhouse gases and repeated Commission statements to phase out fossil fuel subsidies<sup>3</sup>:

How does the Commission ensure that the 'energy efficiency first' principle is respected and implemented in light of the above?

How does it plan to make decisions concerning the PCI list that are compatible with the EU climate targets for 2030 and 2050?

While financial support for PCIs is granted by the CEF, i.e. with EU taxpayers' money, the European Parliament's involvement in PCIs is very low. How will the Commission address Parliament's low level of involvement, given that currently it is only able to adopt or reject the entire list of all (gas, electricity etc.) PCI projects?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/infrastructure/projects-common-interest/funding-projects-common-interest>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/summaries\\_CH4\\_2016.php](http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/summaries_CH4_2016.php)

<sup>3</sup> e.g. G7 Declaration May 2016, Commission Communication on Clean Energy for All Europeans November 2016