

**Question for written answer E-000286/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: Independence of Slovak national energy regulator (ÚRSO)

The Third Energy Package requires Member States to ensure that their national regulatory authorities act independently from any market interests and do not take direct instructions from any government or other public authority when carrying out regulatory tasks. These requirements, set out in the Third Energy Package, establish an important mechanism that guarantees the independence and impartiality of the national energy regulatory authorities.

The twice former Minister of the Economy and Agriculture, Ľubomír Jahňátek, of the ruling '*Smer*' party became President of the Office for the Regulation of Network Industries (ÚRSO) in 2016. However, the President of ÚRSO is obliged to act independently from instructions from government authorities.

1. In light of the foregoing, does the Commission consider Ľubomír Jahňátek, who served twice as a minister for the ruling '*Smer*' party, to be a suitable choice for the post of President of the independent ÚRSO?

In its responses to questions E-006141/2016 and E-006141/2016, the Commission stated that it systematically checks the transposition of the Third Energy Package into the national legislations of the Member States and is in contact with the Slovak authorities, including on issues concerning the independence and the competences of the national regulatory authority of Slovakia, namely the Office for the Regulation of Network Industries (ÚRSO).

2. What specific conclusions/recommendations on rectifying the deficiencies has the Commission made following its dialogue with the Slovak authorities?

3. In the Commission's view, is the personnel system employed by ÚRSO, as described in question E-006142-16, in accordance with European law, and does it guarantee sufficient transparency?