

**Question for written answer E-000639/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The number of gas PCIs on the third Union list

The urgency of climate action is becoming more and more obvious with a global temperature rise of 1.1 °C above preindustrial levels and various natural disasters in 2017. Independent scientific research¹ shows that our use of gas is incompatible with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Even if Europe were to use all its remaining carbon budget solely on gas power generation, ignoring all other emissions, the budget would run out by the middle of the century².

Despite EU climate commitments and G20 pledges to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, the new list of priority energy projects of 'common interest' (PCI list)³ contains a high number of gas infrastructure projects.

Applying a consistent way of counting projects on the 2015 and 2017 PCI lists, the number of electricity projects remained more or less the same, while the number of gas projects rose significantly from 77 to over 90.

How can the Commission ensure that the PCI list is compatible with the TEN-E Regulation⁴, which states that the list should contain around 100 electricity and around 50 gas projects?

How can it guarantee that the PCI list is in line with actual infrastructure needs and compatible with climate commitments?

¹ <https://www.energynews.es/informe-economics-for-energy-gas/>

²

https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/60994617/Natural_Gas_and_Climate_Change_Anderson_Broderick_FOR_DISTRIBUTION.pdf

³ https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/annex_to_pci_list_final_2017_en.pdf

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Decision No 1364/2006/EC and amending Regulations (EC) No 713/2009, (EC) No 714/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009, OJ L 115, 25.4.2013, p. 39.