

EN
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Answer given by Mr Arias Cañete
on behalf of the European Commission
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As the Commission pointed out in its reply to written question P-001307/19, the amendment of Directive 2009/73/EC (Gas Directive) adopted on 15 April 2019 clarifies that the rules of the EU law will be applicable to all gas interconnectors to and from third countries. Recital 9 states that regarding offshore pipelines, the Gas Directive should be applicable in the territorial sea of the Member State where the first interconnection point with the Member States' network is located. In practical terms, the Member State where the first interconnection point is located shall ensure the implementation of the Gas Directive. For example, the regulatory authority of such a Member State shall be in charge of issuing derogations for existing pipelines or consult on possible exemptions for new infrastructure.