

**Question for written answer P-006943/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Andi Cristea (S&D)

Subject: EU energy budget support programme - Republic of Moldova: Ungheni-Chisinau pipeline

The EU energy budget support programme for the energy sector provides a total budget of EUR 42.6 million for the 4-year programme (2011-2014) to assist Moldova in diversifying its energy supply.

This year, EUR 10 million was added to the programme to contribute to the financing of the Ungheni-Chisinau gas pipeline, recognising recent key reform achievements by the Moldovan authorities. Progress must be acknowledged and encouraged with strength. The Chisinau district is the largest gas consumer in Moldova and the project, including the Iași-Ungheni interconnector, would cover a significant share of the country's gas consumption, bringing concrete benefits by increasing energy security and decreasing energy costs for the population.

Considering that greater EU financial support will foster a more rapid finalisation of the connector, which has a strategic significance bearing in mind Moldova's membership of the Energy Community, and in view of current strains on Moldova's state budget (owing also to Russian trade restrictions), what steps will the Commission take to facilitate the cofinancing of other international partners and the preparation of this project?