

Question for written answer P-012711/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: EU energy security and Nord Stream 2

Reducing the EU's dependence on energy imports, in particular from a single eastern supplier, is of key importance to ensuring energy security. At present, one-fifth of the Member States are wholly dependent on Russia for their gas supplies.

The news that the European firms BASF, E.ON, ENGIE, OMV and Royal Dutch Shell have signed an agreement to build the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline with Russia's Gazprom must therefore be seen as a cause for concern. The pipeline, which will run from Russia to Germany under the Baltic Sea, will have an annual carrying capacity of 55 billion cubic metres of gas.

The fact that the pipeline will bypass Poland and the Baltic States will not be to those countries' economic advantage, as it means that they will lose out on transit fees. Furthermore, in view of Russia's past behaviour towards Ukraine, which was until recently the main transit country for Russian gas, one cannot rule out the possibility of Russia using gas supplies as a means of exerting political and economic pressure on other European countries.

The Nord Stream 2 project therefore does not appear to fit in with the EU's energy security strategy, and in particular with efforts to diversify external sources of supply. It also appears to be at odds with the plans for a European Energy Union. What are the Commission's views on this matter?