

**Question for written answer P-008639/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Edward Czesak (ECR) and Zdzisław Krasnodębski (ECR)

Subject: Commission decision on the OPAL pipeline

On 28 October 2016, the Commission adopted a decision endorsing a decision taken by Germany's Office for Energy Regulation to grant Gazprom access to up to 80% of the capacity of the OPAL pipeline. If no other entity buys the remaining 20% of OPAL's capacity at auction, Gazprom will be able to use that capacity for its own needs and significantly increase the volume of gas it delivers to Central and Eastern Europe. That decision could affect the current and future gas market in Europe.

Before adopting its decision, did the Commission investigate the potential repercussions of an increased gas supply to Central and Eastern Europe via Nord Stream 1 and a reduced supply via the other (Yamal or Brotherhood) pipelines?

How will the decision affect the policy of diversifying gas routes as part of the Energy Union strategy?