

**Question for written answer P-005625/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Laura Agea (EFDD) and Dario Tamburrano (EFDD)

Subject: Clause in the EIB Statute to prevent public funds from being disbursed for the construction of the TAP

The Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) would enable gas from the Caspian Sea to reach Europe directly, while Azerbaijan, in order to build it, could obtain from the EIB alone a loan to the tune of EUR 2 billion of public money.

Even though Azerbaijan has been a member of the Council of Europe since 2001, it has long been living under a disguised dictatorship: the 'New Azerbaijan Party' is formally an independent party, but is actually loyal to the president; it occupies nearly all the 125 seats in parliament, while, in the last elections, opposition parties failed to win even one seat due to vote-rigging and intimidation.

Moreover, as denounced in the European Parliament resolution on Azerbaijan (2015/2840 (RSP)) and in the 2015 annual report on the EU-South Caucasus Eastern Partnership, the Azerbaijani authorities' decision of 4 April 2015 to close the OSCE office in Baku is a serious blow to the protection of human rights in a country in which, according to the 2016 Amnesty International annual report, they are already seriously endangered.

In the light of Article 325 TFEU and of the safeguard clause in Article 18 of the EIB Statute, what specific measures will the Commission take to halt the funding of projects in countries which, like Azerbaijan, do not respect human rights?

Supporter¹

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the author(s): Rosa D'Amato (EFDD).