

**Question for written answer P-007147/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Hermann Winkler (PPE) and Joachim Zeller (PPE)**

Subject: Compliance with 'better regulation' standards by the European Commission

On 8 November, the European Commission presented a legislative proposal aiming to extend the scope of the Gas Directive to pipelines from third countries outside the internal market. At the meeting of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of 12 October, the Commission advocated that the proposal be approved through an expedited procedure. Such a proposal would have far-reaching consequences, for example with regard to the economic feasibility of investments or as regards EU relations with third countries in the field of energy. The Commission considers the proposal to be very important for the internal market but, nevertheless, did not see the need to carry out an impact assessment as provided for in its own guidelines on 'better regulation'.

1. Was there a sufficiently thorough public consultation in line with the Commission's 'better regulation' principles?
2. What is the Commission's assessment as regards its proposal's compliance with international law, and in particular with WTO rules (MFN clause)?
3. How will the Commission ensure that the proposed legislation does not unlawfully discriminate against Nord Stream2?