

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0836/05
by Antoine Duquesne (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Development of world oil and gas production

Against the background of the convulsions currently shaking the oil markets, an increasing number of international experts are of the opinion that world oil production will peak in the next few years – probably before 2010 for conventional oil – while demand will continue to increase, not least because of the economic development of China and India. This will have serious consequences for the economy, which is based on the hypothesis of permanent growth, inextricably linked to ever-increasing consumption of energy (the ‘Hubbert peak’).

Can the Commission indicate what it intends to do in order to meet the challenge posed by the exhaustion of oil and gas reserves? Does the Commission consider that investment in production capacity is the key to rebalancing the market? If so, what strategy does it plan to implement in order to create the right conditions for the necessary investment?

Does the Commission intend to develop the use of alternative forms of energy? What is the Commission’s opinion on the development of nuclear energy? Can the Commission further indicate the state of research into the disposal of nuclear waste, one of the main obstacles to the development of this form of energy?