

**Question for written answer E-005372/2012  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Paweł Robert Kowal (ECR)**

Subject: Actions by certain Member States and the EU's energy security

According to media reports, the Bulgarian Minister for the Economy, Energy and Tourism, Delyan Dobrev has stated that the 11 % discount which Bulgaria was supposed to be granted on gas bought from Russia will be linked to the rapid implementation of the South Stream project.

The intention is for a new gas agreement to be signed directly with Gazprom, without any intermediaries. According to Mr Dobrev, it will run for seven years from 2013 and will include an 11 % discount. It is supposed to be a reward for cooperating with Russia on South Stream.

1. In connection with the above, what is the Commission's attitude towards the actions of those Member States that are becoming increasingly involved in South Stream as a rival project to Nabucco (including Nabucco-West)?
2. Are actions such as those taken by Bulgaria compatible with the energy interests of the European Union as a whole?