

**Question for written answer E-000623/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Niki Tzavela (EFD)**

Subject: Blocking by Turkey of Cyprus' admission to the Council of the International Agency for Renewable Energy (IRENA)

In mid-January 2013, the members of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) met in Abu Dhabi to vote on the admission of new members. Given that Turkey is a member of that Agency, it was able to oppose Cyprus and Israel's membership of the IRENA Council.

At its previous meeting, in November 2012, the IRENA Council had reached agreement on a proposal for amendment of the provisional rules of procedure on the Council's composition, election and rotation, after extensive consultations by the facilitators appointed at the previous session of the IRENA Assembly. That proposal provides for seven seats to be allocated to the regional grouping 'Europe and Others'. If the proposed amendment is adopted, the members of the Council will be elected as nominated by the regional groupings.

In the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, which was agreed in trilogues between the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament, Cyprus is included in Annex I, paragraph 116 relating to 'North-South electricity interconnections in Central Eastern and South Eastern Europe ("NSI East Electricity")': interconnections and internal lines in North-South and East-West directions to complete the internal market and integrate generation from renewable energy sources.'

1. Given the importance attached to renewable energy policy in the EU and the equal significance of completing the internal energy market and ending energy isolation throughout the Union by 2014, what is the Commission's position on Turkey's actions?
2. Does the Commission view this as constructive behaviour on the part of Turkey, or does it consider this to be a retaliation to Cyprus' and Israel's intentions to drill for fossil fuels in the Eastern Mediterranean?