

**Question for written answer E-004664/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: South-East Europe as an electricity corridor

In the Commission Communication 'Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond - A Blueprint for an integrated European energy network' (COM(2010)0677), the Commission views South-East Europe primarily as a gas corridor (the 'southern gas corridor'). The Communication only recognises in a peripheral manner the need to develop grid connections in South-East Europe and only recommends 'the increase of transfer capacities between South East European countries, including those of the Energy Community Treaty, in view of their further integration with Central European electricity markets.'¹

In the Commission's Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Connecting Europe Facility 2011/0302 (COD), the same view was taken again. In Part II of the Annex which includes the draft list of infrastructure priority corridors and areas in the field of energy, in spite of the inclusion of the North-South electricity interconnections in central eastern and South-East Europe, the southern gas corridor, described as having the objective of the 'transmission of gas from the Caspian Basin, Central Asia, the Middle East and the East Mediterranean Basin to the Union to enhance diversification of gas supply'², does not have an electricity equivalent.

This view completely ignores the rich solar, wind, hydro and geothermal resources in the region, as well as the potential for building power storage capacity, which could be integrated into the European energy supply, thereby enhancing security of supply and the achievement of decarbonisation targets.

Will the Commission consider adding to its long-term priorities the development of electricity infrastructure and grid connections in South-East Europe, with a view to increasing energy independence, stimulating growth and generating jobs in Member States and candidate countries in the region?

¹ Available online at [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SPLIT_COM:2010:0677\(01\):FIN:EN:PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SPLIT_COM:2010:0677(01):FIN:EN:PDF), p.30.

² Available online at http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/news/speeches-statements/pdf/20111019_2_en.pdf, page 51.