Question for written answer E-014356/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
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Subject: Erection of onshore wind turbines in transboundary areas

Article 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) defines energy as an area in which competence is shared between the European Union (EU) and the Member States. Article 194 TFEU states that Union policy shall also aim, in a spirit of solidarity between Member States, to promote the development of new and renewable forms of energy. Article 175 TFEU refers to the European structural funds and economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU.

The erection of onshore wind turbines in intra-European transboundary areas may have a negative impact on citizens and their immediate environment. Consequently, transboundary conflicts are arising and cannot be resolved due to the legal vacuum at all levels: European, national and territorial.

1. Can the European Commission indicate if there are any common European provisions on the erection of equipment which comes under renewable energy policy?

2. Concerning the intra-European transboundary nature of certain wind turbines and their impact and in the absence of any European guidelines, can the Commission indicate if it is relying on the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context or on any other convention under international law?

3. Can the Commission indicate if it would be possible, within the context of cross-border cooperation programmes, to support actions to foster better cooperation on renewable energy? If so, how?

4. Directive 2011/92/EC, which is currently being revised, has been the subject of numerous proposals by the European Parliament concerning projects with a transboundary impact. One of the main proposals is to create a single point of contact in each Member State. Does the Commission consider that proposal to be feasible and does it consider that this is the best way of resolving cross-border conflicts?