

**Question for written answer E-000897/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo (S&D)

Subject: EU energy and fracking goals

In addition to the new energy and climate change goals proposed recently by the EU, the Commission has issued the Member States with a number of recommendations (which are in no way binding) relating to the extraction of shale gas through hydraulic fracturing (otherwise known as 'fracking').

In light of the above, and having noted that the aforementioned environmental objectives are somewhat devoid of ambition, this deputy would like to know if the Commission has decided against formulating strong renewable energy goals at the expense of promoting fracking as an energy source.

If that is the case, does the Commission not think that extracting hydrocarbons through fracking might be detrimental to our carbon footprint, and even jeopardise the EU's energy and climate goals?

Is the Commission thinking of toning down present international agreements in the future in order to pave the way for fracking?

Does the Commission think that environmental impact studies need to be carried out over the full life cycle of wells, and that this should be done prior to starting any exploration or construction activities?

Has it taken into account the countless, inevitable repercussions that this procedure could have for the environment, the climate and people's health?

Does it not believe that it has bowed to the interests of gas companies?