

**Question for written answer E-002514/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Zigmantas Balčytis (S&D)**

Subject: Enhancing energy security in the EU

The European Parliament resolution of 10 September 2013 on making the internal energy market work expresses the clear position of the European Parliament that the European Energy Community should be based on a strong common energy market and the coordination of energy purchasing outside the EU (by establishing a gas purchasing group). So far, Member States have individually been negotiating on energy prices with monopolistic third party suppliers. This leads to the application of different price formulas, creates an uneven playing field in Member States and weakens the EU as a whole.

Time and again the position has been raised that the Commission has to take responsibility and facilitate the centralised purchasing of energy resources (especially gas) from third parties, which would allow fairer gas purchase prices to be ensured, especially for such energy-isolated regions as the Baltic region, which to date has been paying much more for gas compared to other EU Member States. So far, the Commission has not taken any action.

In addition, with regard to the recent situation in Ukraine and Russia's actions, it is necessary to have a strong and unified EU position on purchasing energy resources from Russian suppliers.

The decisions taken to this point, which were aimed at gathering data on energy agreements with third parties, have not been effective due to their non-binding nature. This makes it virtually impossible for the EU to gather data on the price formulas applied by the monopolistic supplier in individual Member States and to control its internal energy market.

Does the Commission not believe that it is necessary to take immediate action to formulate a clear EU strategy for the purchasing of energy resources from Russian companies to protect the EU and individual Member States' energy markets, thus reducing energy and hence political dependence on external suppliers? Does the Commission not believe that it is necessary to review the decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 fixing the mechanism for exchanging information on intergovernmental energy agreements between Member States and third parties and to replace it with a binding mechanism which would allow the EU to gather data on the energy sector and to more effectively control its internal energy market?