

**Question for written answer E-005401/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Juozas Imbrasas (EFD)**

Subject: Energy independence and common union

In public, Warsaw calls for establishment of the energy union in Europe, which would reduce dependency on the Russian energy resources. Lithuania is currently buying gas only from Gazprom and paying the highest price in all of Europe. One of the positive steps forward would be our participation in the common diversified gas market. This year we also hope to complete the Klaipėda liquefied natural gas terminal, which could contribute to the implementation of the idea and the proposal. It is also important that at the end of 2015 Lithuania will have become an unenclosed island of electrical energy. Presently we are building the electrical connection LitPol Link with Poland; we are also building the electrical connection with Sweden. These two connections must be introduced in 2015, and only in this case could we speak about the development of the common European Union energy system. I believe this could help to partially solve the issue on competition among countries, where individual states pay larger sums of money both when buying gas and when producing and importing electrical energy. The common EU energy community could exploit its own resources, i.e. shale gas and coal; moreover, all Member States could buy gas in commodity exchange, thus dictating their own terms, rather than accepting the proposals of monopolies. I believe this also applies to the idea of greater communality in purchase. We would like for Europe as a whole to start participating in public procurement – there are various mechanisms and methods to this end, for example, exchange. In order for Europe to be able to dictate terms, not just accept them, it is very important that, in search of various mechanisms and methods, a general policy would be applied. I hope that these proposals will also be reflected in the proposal of the Commission, which will discuss European energy independence and which will be presented during the European Council meeting in Brussels, this June.

Does the Commission not consider that the common union would not only ensure a more competitive economy, but also reduce the political and economic dependence on Russia and its gas concern Gazprom?

Does the Commission not believe that Europe needs the energy union, because it leads to the competitiveness of the European economy, it would also increase energy and political independence, and it applies in particular to countries heavily dependent on the Russian gas supply?