

Question for written answer E-001420/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: EU energy relations with the Russian Federation, the discontinued South Stream project and the 'Turkish Stream' project announced by Moscow and Ankara

Maroš Šefčovič, the Commissioner for Energy Union, visited Moscow in mid-January 2015. Following his talks with Russian politicians and the heads of Gazprom, it became clear that Russia was minded to suspend natural gas supplies transiting through Ukraine. Instead, the Russians intend to supply the European Union, and particularly south-eastern Europe, via a pipeline across the bed of the Black Sea to Turkey (a project which has been dubbed 'Turkish Stream'): they announced the construction of this pipeline after the South Stream project had been suspended.

1. The Commission had taken exception to the construction of South Stream, arguing that it did not meet the norms of the Third Energy Package. If the Turkish Stream project goes ahead will it meet these norms?
2. In the Commission's view, will natural gas purchased at the Turkish-Greek border be cheaper, given that the Turkish Stream project, unlike South Stream, does not provide for the EU Member States' purchasing directly from the supplier country but includes a transit country such as Turkey?
3. What alternative natural gas supply option will be available to countries like Bulgaria which are losing out from the suspension of the South Stream project?