

**Question for written answer E-006566/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Strengthening the common foreign policy by establishing an Energy Union

A successful European Energy Union and a strong EU foreign policy go together. The aim of the Energy Community Treaty of 2006, whose period of validity has been extended until 2026, is to create an integrated energy market for the EU and its southern and eastern neighbours. However, the EU's primary energy production has been declining for years, whilst energy imports as a whole have increased. Today, more than half the EU's energy needs are met by imports from third countries. This is leading to increased dependence and undermining EU foreign policy.

1. In 2014, the Energy Community's High Level Reflection Group, chaired by Jerzy Buzek MEP, prepared a report entitled 'An energy community for the future'. To what extent are the report's recommendations reflected in the priorities of the EU's current energy policy?
2. Cooperation with southern Mediterranean countries is crucial to achieving the Green Deal's goals. Will the Commission therefore actively seek and support these countries' inclusion in the energy community?
3. Given the many shared challenges ahead, will the Commission strengthen the Energy Community by increasing its budget and broadening its tasks?