

**Question for written answer E-000677/2022**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Filip De Man (ID)**

**Subject:** Inadequate forward planning for energy supplies

On 11 January 2022, European natural gas stocks reached their lowest levels for a number of years. By January 29, supplies had fallen to 2.7 billion cubic meters less than the lowest level previously recorded on that date.

According to experts, high prices can be attributed to not only the difficulties being encountered by major suppliers, coupled with strong demand for liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Asia, but also and above all the low utilisation rate of the European underground reserves.

The Commission has repeatedly accused Russia of provoking an energy crisis. However, although Russia has offered to maintain long-term raw material supply contracts, the Commission has opted for spot contracts, thereby weakening the Union in geopolitical terms to such a degree that the US administration has decided to meet a delegation from Qatar in a bid to hammer out a solution to the problem of EU energy supplies.

1. Will the Commission encourage Member States to import American gas (which is up to 40% more expensive than Russian gas)?
2. Does the Commission agree that gas remains a mainstay of domestic and industrial energy supply and hence a cornerstone of prosperity in the Union?
3. When will the Commission put a stop to US interference in Union energy policy?