Question for written answer E-002827/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Dolors Montserrat (PPE)

Subject: Building the Midcat gas pipeline and European energy autonomy

Parliament's plenary session in March 2022 was the last time I asked the EU to secure Europe’s energy autonomy and independence in order to stop depending on Putin.

I stressed the need to back a genuine interconnected common energy market, and I explained that for that to happen we would need to build infrastructure like the Midcat gas pipeline to connect Spain with the rest of Europe.

Today, five months later, that debate is back on the table at Germany's request and this time endorsed by the Spanish Government.

Spain is the EU country with the most gas storage and the greatest capacity for regasification (converting liquefied gas back to natural gas), and the EU itself includes gas and nuclear energy on its list of green energies for the energy transition.

In the light of the above:

1. Could the Commission explain why the Midcat project was dropped from the current list of projects of common interest?
2. When does the Commission expect Midcat to be up and running?
3. What steps is the Commission taking to increase the number of gas and electricity interconnectors?