

**Question for written answer E-004140/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Risks posed by the draft agreement on electricity with Azerbaijan

After having signed agreements on oil, the EU is now lending its support to a submarine cable project to transport electricity, again from Azerbaijan. This agreement seeks to reduce dependence on Russia – to be avoided for diplomatic reasons – even though Azerbaijan again went to war with its neighbour Armenia shortly after Russia began its war.

This electricity is purportedly clean as it is produced from renewables. The country primarily uses fossil fuels, however, although it hopes to increase the share of renewable energy to 30% by 2030. Experts in Hungary, a country the cables will cross, have publicly expressed doubts about Azerbaijan's declarations. They denounce the Turkish influence on Baku, the fact that the electricity would cause more pollution than anticipated, the failure to respect human rights and the risk of the European Union becoming dependent on another third country.

In view of this, there are two legitimate questions:

1. Can the Commission guarantee that the EU's dependence on Russia is not being replaced by dependence on another country that is not democratic and does not respect the territorial integrity of its neighbours?
2. Does the Commission have any guarantees regarding the renewable nature of this electricity?

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