

Reply to oral question
H-0054/08
by Ms Bairbre de Brún
February 2008

The Commission does not plan to bring forward regulations on the undergrounding of electric lines.

It does not belong to the Commission to select the route of an electricity link nor the technology to be used. This is left to the project promoter who has to respect the conditions imposed by the authorities of the country(ies) concerned.

As indicated in the Commission's reply to oral question H-0895/07¹ concerning an Irish power line project, the authorities designated by the Member States are responsible for the planning and authorisation procedures under the respect of environmental law.

The Commission does not make guidelines on best practice regarding the installation of high-voltage lines in residential areas. The Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC of 12 July 1999 on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz) establishes a framework of minimum restrictions and reference levels but the Member States remain responsible for the implementation of measures.

¹ Reply given orally on 11 December 2007.