

**Question for oral answer O-000012/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the ECR Group

Subject: Third Energy Package

The Third Energy Liberalisation Package is a basis for a competitive energy market in the EU. Recently however, the representatives of the Russian Federation and the Russian monopolist Gazprom have been repeating an appeal to reform the principles of the third package, particularly to repeal the 'third-party access' (TPA) principle to the gas transmission infrastructure.

These opinions have unfortunately been sympathetically received in some EU Member State capitals. Specifically, this involves the withdrawal of the principle of third-party access to the South Stream pipeline.

With reference to the Russian Federation's campaign against the provisions of the third liberalisation package, there have been reports of an agreement being proposed between the European Union and the Russian Federation, under which the aforementioned package's rules would not be binding with regard to Russian gas export pipelines. This would be an international agreement above European law.

The consultations regarding this topic were noted in the protocol of the economic negotiations between France and Russia dated November 2011.

Is it true that the Commission was presented with a draft agreement during EU-Russia energy talks?

Is it true that the draft agreement was drawn up by the Russian Government?

Does the Commission intend to change the provisions of the third liberalisation package in the energy sector?

Is the Commission intending to accede to the demands to exclude South Stream from the rules of the third energy package, including the TPA principle?

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Deadline for reply: 2.2.2012