

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4371/06
by Peter Skinner (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Implementation of the Transparency Obligations Directive

In view of the coming into force of the Transparency Obligations Directive on 1 January 2007, can the Commission please confirm what it intends to do to ensure that Recital 14 of the Directive is heeded, encouraging transparency of payments to third-country governments outside of the European Union for the rights to extract minerals?

Further, with regard to companies outside the EU buying future options in extractive industries, in particular the oil industry, and allowing practices which this Directive seeks to end, can the Commission give an update of any developments?

What actions does the Commission intend to take, given the very real threat to such transparency initiatives by actions of third country investors, and how will it support countries who have already demonstrated a willingness to work within this framework, for example Nigeria?