

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1609/07

by Šarūnas Birutis (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Implementation of Parliament's resolution of 14 December 2006 on a European strategy for sustainable, competitive and secure energy

On 14 December 2006, Parliament adopted a resolution on a European strategy for sustainable, competitive and secure energy, in which it set out its view that the strategic analysis of energy policy proposed by the Commission should include a strategic analysis of the problems encountered by the EU in the energy sector, including external aspects (paragraph 39). Parliament also called on the Commission to analyse and address the issue of technical failures in third countries that affect cross-border supplies to the Member States, such as the disruption of the oil supply resulting from a technical incident in the Druzhba pipeline (paragraph 72). The solution to this problem is linked to the forthcoming negotiations on the EU-Russia cooperation agreement (which is to replace the partnership and cooperation agreement), which should contain provisions designed to address the issue of technical failures in third countries affecting supplies to the EU (paragraph 67(d)). It should be noted that this issue was also raised during the European Council meeting of heads of state and government on 8 and 9 March 2007. The action plan resulting from that meeting, covering the period between 2007 and 2009 and entitled 'An energy policy for Europe', includes – among other priority action to be taken as regards security of supply – the need to ensure that more efficient mechanisms are put in place to react to supply crises (point 3 of the action plan), bearing in mind that the Commission would play the key role as regards coordination.

In the light of the above, could the Commission state how it is implementing paragraph 72 of Parliament's above-mentioned resolution? What progress has been made so far? How does the Commission intend to address the specific problems that would be caused if a decision were taken to stop oil being supplied to the EU (and Lithuania in particular) via the Druzhba pipeline?