

**Question for written answer P-005967/2012  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Knut Fleckenstein (S&D)**

Subject: Liquefied natural gas (LNG) as alternative ship fuel

Using liquefied natural gas (LNG) as ship fuel is one of the most promising new shipping technologies for at least three reasons: LNG will reduce sulphur oxide (SO<sub>x</sub>) emissions by 90-95 %, and also reduce nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions. Furthermore, as the carbon content of LNG is lower than that of traditional ship fuels, a 20-25 % reduction in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions is possible. Finally, the current price of LNG is comparable to that of heavy fuel oil (HFO).

Against this promising background, will the Commission state what initiatives it has taken with regard to:

- developing regulatory measures, especially safety measures;
- identifying in detail financial means to support the sector, in particular as regards the implementation of projects, studies and pilot measures;
- introducing new technologies, innovative infrastructure and facilities to support the deployment of LNG;
- creating a one-stop shop for industry, addressing financial support;
- identifying whether there is a need for further R&D work and/or pilot projects?