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P-002205/2013
Answer given by Mr Füle
on behalf of the Commission
(3.4.2013)

The Commission considers that Turkey is sufficiently prepared to start negotiations on the energy chapter. This chapter deals with the EU acquis in the area of energy, including the internal energy market, the promotion of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, nuclear energy and nuclear safety and radiation protection.

As regards the issue of hydrocarbon explorations in the East Mediterranean, the Commission refers to last December's Council Conclusions according to which Turkey needs to commit itself unequivocally to good neighbourly relations and to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nations Charter, having recourse, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice. In these Conclusions the Council also urged Turkey to avoid any kind of threat or action directed against a Member State, or source of friction or actions, which could damage good neighbourly relations and the peaceful settlement of disputes.