

**Question for written answer P-000597/2014  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo (S&D)**

Subject: Renewable energy and fracking

The EU currently aims to meet an obligatory triple objective by 2020: a 20% cut in emissions, a 20 % share for renewable energies and 20 % savings in energy consumption.

I understand that the Commission is considering the possibility of dropping one of the binding objectives for renewables towards 2030 – which would be a continuation of the 20 % quota decided for 2020 – as it believes it will be impossible to reach an agreement because of the huge differences between Member States.

In addition to the new objectives relating to energy and climate change, the Commission is to present recommendations to the Member States on the exploitation of shale gas by hydraulic fracturing (fracking).

In light of this, I would like to know whether this means the Commission is giving up on ambitious goals in the field of renewable energies by promoting fracking as a source of energy.

Does the Commission not feel that extracting hydrocarbons by fracking could have a negative impact on our carbon footprint and even compromise the EU's energy and climate objectives?

Is the Commission considering future action to water down the current international commitments in order to pave the way for fracking?

Does the Commission see a need to carry out environmental impact studies covering the whole life cycle of such wells and does it agree that this should be done before any exploratory or construction work is started?

Has the Commission conscientiously evaluated the varied and inevitable impacts which this technology can be foreseen to have on the environment, the climate and on public health?