

**Question for written answer P-002476/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Zigmantas Balčytis (S&D)

Subject: The European Commission's investigation into Gazprom

On 4 September 2012, the Commission launched formal investigation procedures in respect of Gazprom to determine whether the company's actions in possibly taking advantage of its dominant position on the gas markets of Central and Eastern European Member States infringe EU competition rules and the provisions of the EU Treaty.

Being totally dependent on the gas supplied by this company, Lithuania is one of the most affected Member States. It is estimated that from 2004-2012 the price of the gas supplied by the company significantly increased due to changes in the gas price formula, and therefore every year during the heating season residents of Lithuania suffer additional expenses that may reach thousands of litas. Consequently, expensive gas causes Lithuanian industry and business to lose a lot of money and reduces the country's competitiveness.

The Commission's investigation is particularly important to Lithuania, since it has submitted a claim for 5 billion litas on gas price overpayment in respect of Gazprom to the Stockholm Arbitrator. It is expected that the arbitration process will take four years or more, which means that for a long time Lithuania will pay a political price for the gas supplied by this company.

I would like to know exactly when the Commission intends to complete the investigation and when it intends to publish the results. If the Commission imposes a fine on Gazprom, can Lithuania expect to receive compensation for the damage caused by this company?