

**Question for written answer P-010792/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ian Duncan (ECR)

Subject: Hydrocarbon BREF

On 6 May 2015 the Commission's DG ENVI announced that a service contract 'to support the development of a BREF on hydrocarbon exploration and extraction' had been awarded to Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure Ltd.

Given that the BREF will be developed without the input of Parliament or the Council, and given its wide-ranging nature, what impact assessment has the Commission undertaken of its impact on energy security, the better regulation agenda, and the regulatory gaps it will seek to fill, and why is the Commission seemingly pursuing a policy goal of restricting fossil fuel extraction that subverts the democratic process?

What is the legal basis for the BREF, and will any of its contents be legally binding on Member States, either retroactively or in the future awarding of permits?

As the BREF will be developed by an external contractor, what consideration has been given to data protection and the legality of supplying commercial data?