

**Question for written answer P-003245/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Bulgaria-Romania-Hungary-Austria energy interconnector

The BRUA interconnector project, which will link up the energy networks serving Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Austria, is to receive funding from the Connecting Europe Facility. The first phase of the project is now under way and involving the construction of a 479 km gas pipeline. Public procurement procedures are in the final stages and work is scheduled to commence in 2017.

Under the provisions of Directive 2014/25/EU, tenders containing more than 50 % of products originating in third countries may be rejected. This directive has been transposed in the Romanian legislation.

However, from initial information regarding the project, it appears that this clause has not been included in the contract specifications.

If the contract were awarded to a company that failed to comply with this requirement, this would undermine the stated objective of supporting the European steel sector, which is of key importance, generating over 330 000 jobs at European level and therefore requiring adequate EU support.

What view does the Commission take of this situation and the possible breach of Directive 2014/25/EU?

What additional measures will the Commission take to protect the European steel industry from frequently unfair competition from third countries?