

**Question for written answer P-003408/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miriam Dalli (S&D)**

Subject: Malta-Sicily interconnector

Energy security is a pillar of the Energy Union.

The Malta-Sicily interconnector was put in place to end the isolation of the Maltese Islands from the European energy network – through a substation in Ragusa – and to provide security of supply and flexibility in the islands' electricity services.

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Luigi di Maio recently made a veiled threat to Malta, saying: 'We give Malta electricity, there is a cable that starts in Ragusa that gives Malta electricity, and Malta refused to help out the Aquarius, which was in its SAR [search and rescue] zone'. The rescue operation in question took place in the Libyan SAR zone.

1. Does the Commission consider such threats by a Member State to be acceptable?
2. How can it ensure that projects of common interest are not used to threaten energy-isolated Member States?
3. In view of the statement made, can the Commission check that the interconnector between Malta and Italy has not been disrupted?