**Seán Kelly (PPE).** – I believe this to be a good report, and the first step towards putting in place long-term objectives to decarbonise the heating and cooling sector. Almost half of the EU’s final energy demand is for heating and cooling, and so I think that this initiative is timely and I believe that our work on heating and cooling should go hand in hand with our work on renewables, energy efficiency, buildings and energy security. For me, technology development is a vitally important part of the strategy. When we consider the energy security situation in Europe, and our over-dependence on Russian gas, we should remember that this dependence is largely to do with our heat supply.

For this reason, it is important not only that we look to diversify our sources of natural gas, which is crucial, but also that we explore ways to support and accelerate the increased deployment of renewable heat technologies.