

**Question for written answer E-014304/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Eija-Riitta Korhola (PPE), Sari Essayah (PPE), Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Petri Sarvamaa (PPE), Nils Torvalds (ALDE), Liisa Jaakonsaari (S&D), Anneli Jäätteenmäki (ALDE), Hannu Takkula (ALDE), Sampo Terho (EFD), Satu Hassi (Verts/ALE), Tarja Cronberg (Verts/ALE) and Mitro Repo (S&D)

Subject: Decision on the regional LNG terminal location

In October 2013, the Commission submitted a list of energy infrastructure projects of common interest eligible for financial support through the Connecting Europe Facility. The Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP) was defined as a priority gas corridor¹, to end isolation and increase diversification and security of supply. Finland, the largest regional gas market and one of the most isolated markets in the EU, has two projects on the list: the Balticconnector pipeline, to be built between Finland and Estonia, and a large-scale regional LNG terminal, Finngulf LNG. Three competing terminal projects are located in Estonia and Latvia.

In January 2013, the BEMIP regional ad-hoc group awarded Finngulf LNG the highest ranking², and reported that it was the best suited to meet regional demand. In November 2012, a DG Energy study³ confirmed that the Finnish location, being closest to the biggest gas customers, would be most beneficial in terms of peak shaving and access to the off-grid markets.

In light of this:

1. Does the Commission agree that the decision on the LNG terminal location should be based purely on a sound, fact-based economic and technical analysis? If so, what further information does the Commission require besides the mentioned analyses?
2. Can the Commission confirm that, with regard to the Balticconnector pipeline, there would need to be substantial increases in investment, and that operating costs would increase significantly, in order for other terminal locations to provide the same level of gas capacity to Finland that Finngulf LNG can provide?
3. The EU wishes to end the isolation of energy islands. The Balticconnector pipeline is of key importance in achieving this. Have all project developers shown similar commitment to constructing the Balticconnector pipeline?
4. What is the timetable for a decision on the final location of a regional large-scale terminal in the Baltic Sea region?

¹ Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure

² Methodology for project assessment, Booz&Co, 7 January 2013

³ Analysis of costs and benefits of regional liquefied natural gas solution in the East-Baltic Area, including proposal for location and technical options under the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan, DG Energy, 20 November 2012