

**Question for written answer E-001364/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Anna Zalewska (ECR)

Subject: Methane regulation and relaxation of importer requirements

The methane regulation is based on data that is no longer current on account of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which has radically changed the geopolitical environment and threatens the EU's energy security. The impact assessment does not take into account high inflation and soaring energy prices.

Methane emissions come from other sectors of the economy, but the regulation mistakenly places the greatest burden on the energy sector in Poland. Given that Poland is the only producer of hard coal and coking coal in Europe, the planned introduction of new restrictions would mean phasing out the Polish mining industry by 2029, which would clearly be discriminatory.

Global emissions will not fall, and will even rise, if domestic resources are replaced by imported fossil fuels, yet the Commission has suspiciously proposed not imposing limits on imported gas and coal.

1. Why, in Article 27, has the Commission proposed disproportionately lighter obligations for importers compared with the very restrictive provisions for domestic producers of coal and gas? Whose interests does this proposal reflect, given that these provisions greatly benefit large importers of energy raw materials, such as Gazprom?
2. Russia is increasingly engaged in economic cooperation with African countries and is trying to take control of alternative sources of gas for Europe. It is already targeting the Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline, which in future can provide Europe with gas or hydrogen supplies. It is also strengthening its military cooperation, including through the presence of the Wagner Group in Africa. What action is the Commission taking to counter the negative effects of this cooperation on the EU?

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