

**Question for written answer E-015351/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Conflict of interest in EPA fracking report

Community groups and activists in County Leitrim have been campaigning to stop the ongoing EPA-commissioned environmental impact assessment of fracking in Leitrim as a result of the involvement of CDM Smith – a company with strong links to the fracking industry which is leading the government-sponsored research.

CDM Smith has not declared any conflict of interest and plans have been scrapped to present the initial findings of the research at a public meeting. Queen's University has also now confirmed that it is not involved in the study, despite being named as a partner and centrally involved in reviewing the research.

There are fears that the report is likely to result in fracking being allowed in Ireland. Fracking poses a very real risk to the success of our farming industry and to the health and safety of rural communities, and could also undermine our tourism industry.

Can the Commission comment on this EPA report and outline whether it considers that CDM's involvement as lead consultant in the assessment constitutes a conflict of interest?