

Question for written answer E-015218/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Jordi Sebastià (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Consulting and involving civil society in an electricity connection project across the Pyrenees in Aragon

On 18 November 2015, the Commission approved the list of projects of common interest that replaces Annex VII to Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure. On that list is a project entitled 'Increasing capacity between Spain and France'. It has been reported in the media that it is not yet known exactly what route the connection will take, although it is known that it will run from Sabiñánigo to Marsillon. In its answer to Question E-010446/2015, the Commission stated that 'the High-Level Group will consult all the concerned key players in the region whilst it is the responsibility of the project promoters to carry out the public consultations at the local level'.

1. Does the Commission consider local authorities, residents' associations or environmental or heritage protection groups in the areas concerned to be 'key players', or will they only be involved in the 'public consultations at local level'?
2. If that is the case, does the Commission not take the view that the local people affected by this infrastructure (as they are the ones who will have to live with it and be exposed to its effects) should be consulted and involved on the same level as those who are deemed to be 'key players'?
3. When will the final route of the project be known?