

Question for written answer E-015377/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Isabella De Monte (S&D)

Subject: Contrasting opinions of the Commission and stakeholders as regards the construction of the Somplago - Würmlach overhead power line (merchant line)

On 18 November 2015, the Commission submitted its list of 195 potential projects of common interest in energy infrastructure; the list includes the project relating to the construction of the Somplago – Würmlach overhead power line, promoted by Alpe Adria Energia S.p.A. The project will be eligible for financial support through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

By Decision No 1252/2015 of the Regional Executive Committee, the draft Regional Energy Plan for the Friuli Venezia Giulia region was adopted. This draft plan reveals the Region's opposition to the construction of the Somplago – Würmlach overhead power line regarding the project as it currently stands. However, Friuli Venezia Giulia would be willing to accept a possible underground cross-border project.

Austria, for environmental protection reasons, has denied authorisation for the construction of the overhead power line for the part which falls under its jurisdiction, by an administrative court judgment of 28 August 2014, subsequently confirmed by a higher court.

Is the Commission aware of these facts, and what action does it intend to take to bring its decisions into line with the views expressed by the parties concerned with regard to the characteristics of the project, also to safeguard the project for possible future completion?