

Question for written answer E-014499/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Paul Tang (S&D)

Subject: Lobbying by the fossil fuel industry, in relation to the Commission

According to the report of 4 November 2015 'Cooking the planet' by the Corporate Europe Observatory, the European Union's agenda is largely dominated by fossil fuel companies.

For example, in the first 11 months, 80% of the meetings held by Commissioners Cañete and Šefčovič were with industry (699), including 383 with the energy industry and 282 with fossil fuel companies. Meanwhile only 17 meetings were recorded as having been held with people promoting the interests of renewable energy.

Such energy companies as BP, E.ON and Statoil seem to enjoy a particularly privileged status. It is also claimed that members of the office of Commissioner Cañete, as well as advisers to him, have conflicts of interests, having in both cases previously worked for fossil fuel suppliers.

1. Can the Commission confirm the findings of the report? If so, does the Commission consider that this selection of discussion partners from industry, and particularly from the fossil fuel industry, could undermine moves towards sustainability and the attainment of climate targets?
2. What measures will the Commission take to guarantee proportionate representation of civil society organisations and promoters of renewable energy?
3. What steps will Commissioner Cañete take to refute the accusations that his staff have conflicts of interest, and that his own background is controversial?