

Reinhard Bütikofer, MEP  
Michèle Rivasi, MEP  
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Brussels, 14 April 2011

Dear Commissioner Oettinger,  
Dear Commissioner Potočník,  
Dear Commissioner Hedegaard,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament and participants of a meeting on shale gas / unconventional gas issues that took place in the European Parliament on 13 and 14 April 2011, would like to convey to you our grave concerns regarding these matters.

We are from seven European Member States where public discussions on fossil hydrocarbon / shale gas / unconventional gas may yet differ somewhat.

But we share many sceptical and critical perceptions concerning these matters. And we are involved in making civic opposition to the shale gas experiment in our countries and EU-wide.

In your responsibility as EU Commissioners you have to deal with shale gas / unconventional gas issues. Therefore, we want to address you with four points of concern, on which we want to ask you to act:

- We ask you to institutionalise a regular shale gas / unconventional gas dialogue with civic and NGO representatives as soon as possible, hopefully starting before the summer break.
- We ask you to publicly support the moratorium demand made recently by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research for as long as the United States Environmental Protection Agency's study on environmental impacts of shale gas drilling have not been published and evaluated.
- We ask you to guarantee that the European Chemical Agency gets complete information about the chemicals actually used or foreseen to be used in hydraulic fracturing from the companies involved, as well as the chemicals in the rocks to be fractured, so that they can analyse that information and make the findings available to the public.

- We ask you to produce a greenhouse gas emissions (direct and indirect) impact assessment of shale gas drilling and to publish a calculation of its carbon footprint.

We would be glad to hear back from you at your earliest convenience.