

**Question for written answer E-003352/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
César Luena (S&D)

Subject: New hydrocarbon extraction in the Arctic and EU policy

Norway has announced it will continue to develop new oil and gas resources in the Barents Sea, as it seeks to secure its contribution to European energy security.

The EU's 2021 Arctic policy, however, sets out a commitment to push for oil, coal and gas to remain in the ground, including in the Arctic, and to explore a multilateral obligation to prevent the development of new hydrocarbon reserves in the region.

Given that the Commission is currently updating this policy in the new geopolitical and geoeconomic context:

1. What view does the Commission take of Norway's plans to develop new oil and gas reserves in the Arctic in light of the EU's current Arctic policy and its climate goals, including climate neutrality by 2050?
2. Does it consider replacing dependence on Russian fossil fuels with new investments that prolong Europe's dependence on other hydrocarbons to be compatible with those goals?
3. When reviewing the EU's Arctic policy, will the Commission continue to oppose the development of new hydrocarbon reserves in the region?

Submitted: 27.8.2026