

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000560/25
to the Commission
Afroditi Latinopoulou (Pfe)
(6 February 2025)**

Subject: Supporting the EastMed pipeline to reduce energy dependence on non-EU countries

The EastMed pipeline aims to transport natural gas from reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean region to Europe. Of vital importance for the EU's energy strategy and geopolitical strength, the project will provide a reliable and strategically critical source of energy. The pipeline's construction will enhance the EU's autonomy and reduce its dependence on non-EU countries, such as Russia, Türkiye, Azerbaijan and Qatar, which control key energy sources and routes.

The EastMed pipeline is expected to have an initial capacity of 10 billion cubic metres per year (bcm/y), with the potential to expand to 12-20 bcm/y. It will be able to cover a significant portion of the EU's needs and help reduce Russian energy imports by 30-40% by 2040. In addition, it will further diversify the EU's energy mix and contribute towards building a resilient energy system in Europe.

In view of the above:

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to accelerate the EastMed pipeline project as a means of reducing dependence on Russian gas?
2. Are there plans to support the EastMed pipeline project with European funding programmes that will speed up its construction and completion?
3. What steps can the Commission take to ensure the pipeline project's implementation in the face of emerging geopolitical threats of a hybrid nature from Türkiye, Russia and China?

Submitted: 6.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(16 May 2025)**

Following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the Commission outlined in REPowerEU the strategic necessity to accelerate the clean energy transition and diversify natural gas supplies, including through domestic gas resources⁽¹⁾. The EastMed pipeline is one of the options to transport gas from Israeli and Cypriot fields to Greece.

The Commission continuously monitors energy infrastructure developments in alignment with EU policy objectives and available policy instruments. The EastMed pipeline is included in the list of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) and Projects of Mutual Interest (PMIs), and therefore can benefit from streamlined permitting processes, improved regulatory treatment and funding from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) under certain conditions. The project has received funding under the CEF to carry out a feasibility study. The feasibility of the EastMed pipeline will depend on its commercial viability, including future demand dynamics in line with our climate ambitions, and its potential to contribute to the goals of the REPowerEU.

The Commission monitors the implementation of the priority projects and works alongside Member States to address emerging challenges. For instance, the EU addresses challenges like cyber threats and physical security to energy infrastructure via the Critical Entities Resilience Directive⁽²⁾ and the Network and Information Directive (NIS2 Directive)⁽³⁾, and is reviewing the Union's energy security framework.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/key-documents-repowereu_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2557/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2555>.