

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002961/26
to the Commission
Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE)
(15 July 2026)**

Subject: New fossil gas infrastructure in accession countries, including Kosovo

Kosovo, an aspiring EU candidate country and Contracting Party to the Energy Community, has adopted an Energy Strategy, is finalising its National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), is advancing commitments under its Climate Law and is producing a voluntary nationally determined contribution. At the same time, recent political discussions have promoted new fossil gas infrastructure, despite Kosovo currently lacking a gas market, gas network, storage facilities or an identified gas demand base.

1. How does the Commission assess proposals for establishing new fossil gas infrastructure in accession countries that currently lack gas infrastructure, in light of the Green Agenda objectives, Energy Community obligations and the NECP process?
2. Does the Commission consider that discussions and potential support for new energy investments by third countries and international partners should be aligned with nationally adopted energy strategies in accession countries and actual context, in order to ensure coherence with EU-supported energy transition pathways?
3. How does the Commission intend to support evidence-based public debate and strategic planning in enlargement countries where discussions on fossil gas are increasingly shaping domestic political discourse, despite long-term decarbonisation objectives and existing commitments to renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency and to reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

Submitted: 15.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(18 September 2026)**

As part of the accession process, potential candidate and candidate countries are progressively aligning with the EU acquis, including EU energy legislation as well as EU rules on fair and transparent public procurement.

As a Contracting Party to the Energy Community Treaty, Kosovo* is bound to implement most of this acquis, alongside its climate and renewables commitments under the 2020 Sofia Declaration and binding targets adopted by the Energy Community Ministerial Council in 2022.

The EU's current external financing instruments do not allow for the funding of new fossil fuel infrastructure projects. In countries with limited or not existing gas infrastructure, such as Kosovo* and most of the Western Balkan countries, new large-scale gas investments would risk locking economies into long-term fossil fuel dependency.

To achieve climate neutrality and phase out coal, energy efficiency, renewable and low-carbon generation, as well as investments into transmission and storage infrastructure should be prioritised, which would also deliver on climate and energy commitments and support alignment with the EU climate and energy *acquis*.

In addition, this approach would strengthen domestic energy security and reduce exposures to supply risks. The Commission considers that investments supported by international partners should be coherent with nationally adopted strategies and the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP).

The Commission supports evidence-based planning and public debate through the NECP process and its public consultation requirements, technical assistance provided by the Energy Community Secretariat, and the Reform Agenda under the Growth Plan, which anchors energy reforms to agreed decarbonisation pathways.
