



The President

Ms Marie Valentine Florin  
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Dear Ms Florin,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 21 February 2014 in which you have drawn to my attention the International Risk Governance Council's (IRGC) report "Risk Governance Guidelines for Unconventional Gas Development"(UGD).

Indeed, the political, economic and social significance of this particular energy resource, which gathered significant pace in the past few years, has given rise to many studies and analysis related to the specific extraction risks associated with unconventional gas.

In that context, I welcome your study as an overview of best practices offering a set of recommendations which ensure the correct handling of all political, societal, environmental, economic, financial and technical aspects of UGD. The majority of these recommendations have already been reflected in two important resolutions entitled "Environmental impacts of shale gas and shale oil extraction activities" and "Industrial, energy and other aspects of shale gas and oil" that the European Parliament adopted on 21 November 2012. The Parliament's conclusions under these resolutions were also underpinned by a comprehensive workshop held in Brussels on 28 February 2012 on the "Impact of Shale Gas and Shale Oil Extraction on the Environment and on Human Health", which gathered the views of a wide-range of stakeholders and experts in that field (copies attached).

I would like to highlight that certain conclusions that Parliament adopted in 2012 stress the importance of improving the "exchange of information among industry, regulators and the public" and creating "independent platforms composed of industry and science representatives aiming to provide opinions and establish good practices related to clean shale gas extraction technologies". These conclusions very much resonate with the one major process recommendation in your report, i.e. the need to establish an international platform on UGD where interested stakeholders would regularly meet to share knowledge about technical practices, regulatory systems and community relationships.

The Parliament would support the idea of such a platform which should build upon existing structures thus maximising international efforts and cooperation already underway in that field.

I have drawn your letter also to the attention of the Chairs of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy that follow very closely all UGD related questions.

Yours sincerely,



**Martin Schulz**

*Annexes: 3*

Copy: - Mr Matthias Groote, MEP, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety  
- Ms Amalia Sartori, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy