

Members of Parliament
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz
Altiero Spinelli
B-1047 Brussels

12th November 2012

Re: ENVI and ITRE reports, plenary session.

Dear Members of Parliament,
Liam Aylward, Nessa Childers, Emer Costello, Brian Crowley, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Marian Harkin, Jim Higgins, Séan Kelly, Mairead McGuinness, Gay Mitchell, Paul Murphy, Phil Prendergast,

We, campaigners for a ban on hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) in Ireland, are writing to you in advance of the upcoming plenary session of the European Parliament. Our view is that unconventional shale gas extraction, specifically by means of hydraulic fracturing, is so inherently polluting and dangerous that, even with the best regulation, the long-term risks to human and animal health and to the environment outweigh any short-term economic benefits.¹

We are therefore calling on the Irish government to ban hydraulic fracturing and all related processes for onshore exploration and exploitation of shale gas reserves. As an indication of the strength of public opinion in Ireland in favour of a ban on fracking, please see the attached documents related to the petitions that we are circulating.²

However, even if Ireland bans fracking, Ireland is still at risk from the fracking that will likely occur across the border in Northern Ireland. We therefore support calls from our fellow citizens in all parts of Europe for a comprehensive ban throughout Europe on hydraulic fracturing and all other processes related to unconventional shale gas extraction.

In the upcoming plenary session, there is unfortunately no fracking ban proposed for you to vote for. The best that is being proposed for now is improved regulation.

Friends of the Earth Europe has issued recommendations with regard to the plenary vote on the ENVI and ITRE reports. Please find attached the FOE recommendations, and please vote accordingly if you agree that they offer the best protection possible at the moment against the risks posed by hydraulic fracturing. (ENVI a YES vote and the ITRE a NO vote)

Overall we ask you to vote in support of any future measures that may come before you to ban the practice of hydraulic fracturing throughout Europe.

Sincerely,

Followed by signatures of campaigners

Attachments:

1. Voting recommendations with regard to the ENVI and ITRE reports
2. Petition documents

¹ DCTV – Fractured landscapes on Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/53026045>

DCTV – Fractured landscapes on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEgnH5hi5as>

² To date we have collected 5,947 signatures on the hard copies, 10,877 signatures on the AVAAZ online petition and over 6,000 signatures on the online go-petition ban fracking Ireland.

You will receive a link to the scanned petitions in pdf