



*National Office: The Secretary, Talamh, Knockvicar, Boyle, Co. Roscommon*

**Re: A7-0283/2012 ENVI (Sonic) REPORT**

**On the environmental impacts of  
shale gas and shale oil extraction activities**

(2011/2308(INI))

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

12 November 2012

Dear MEP

We are concerned that the above REPORT, due before the European Parliament in Plenary Session, includes an EXPLANATORY STATEMENT that is, in our view, in conflict with the spirit and contrary to the intention of the Motion.

We have made notes on the content of this statement and cross-referenced it with points from the Motion, other EU documents and international reports.

We request that the Explanatory Statement, presently included in the Report, be withdrawn from the Report and replaced by one that properly reflects the content of the Motion and the opinions of the two committees, COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (19.6.2012) for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS (21.6.2012) for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

We cannot accept that the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety approved this Explanatory Statement and believe that this raises questions as to the proper functioning of the European Parliament.

We are particularly concerned that at point 33 of the report which “Recognises that hydraulic fracturing takes place at a depth well below groundwater aquifers;”

Our understanding, from Canadian sources and from the USA, is that this is not correct. Reported practice indicates that wells are commonly fractured at multiple depths from the deepest level of the gas bearing substrate to the shallowest level and that the depth of fracturing is dependent entirely on where the gas bearing substrate is found locally. This shallow fracturing has the potential to seriously damage groundwater aquifers.

Yours faithfully

Andrew King, Chairman