



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**Mairead McGuinness**

Member of the European Parliament

Dear

*Neke*

Thank you for your correspondence about the ZANONI report, which was voted in the European Parliament recently.

I am writing to let you know the outcome of the vote and my position in relation to your request to me concerning mandatory EIAs on fracking.

I supported amendments 31 and 54, as well as amendment 79, in the context of fracking, which places into the list of "Projects subject to mandatory environmental impact assessment; *crude oil and/ or natural gas trapped in gas-bearing strata of shale or in other sedimentary rock formations of equal or lesser permeability and porosity, regardless of the amount extracted*" for the "*exploration, evaluation and extraction*" phases.

By voting in favour of amendment 79, I clearly indicated my support for mandatory EIAs during ALL phases of unconventional fossil fuel projects.

I also rejected amendment 112 that called for mandatory EIAs in the case of "*extraction for commercial purposes...*" only. Amendment 115 was not voted.

I did not receive any pre-vote communication from yourselves about amendment 126, around which there was some confusion. My initial view was that the amendment looked like a watering-down of mine and your position which is in favour of mandatory EIAs at ALL stages of the fracking process.

However, on further reflection I changed my vote to reflect my support for amendment 126. (See below my written 'Explanation of Vote', submitted on October 15th).

In addition, I voted in favour of giving the Parliament's Rapporteur the green light to start formal discussions with the Council and Commission on finalising the new directive.

It is regrettable that the amendment ensuring mandatory EIAs at all stages of the fracking process was lost by only 30 votes; the result reflected the fact that this is a contentious issue between and within Member States.

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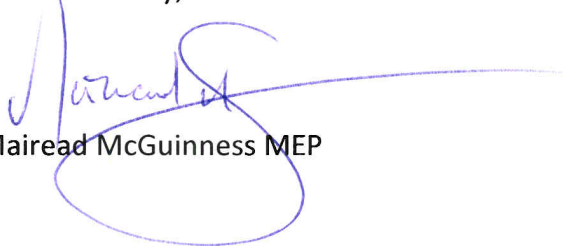
Here is my written explanation of vote:

"I support mandatory EIAs for the exploration, evaluation and extraction of shale gas and voted in favour of this in Am 79 to the Zannoni report.

The wording of Am 126 was not as far reaching as Am 79 so I did not support it, as I viewed it as a narrowing of the scope of the text.

However, as the key words "exploration, evaluation" were lost in the plenary vote on Am 79 (words which I had voted in favour of), I should have supported Am 126 as a compromise text and have changed my vote accordingly, to reflect my full support for mandatory EIAs starting at the exploration stage, when hydraulic fracturing is used."

Yours sincerely,



Mairead McGuinness MEP