

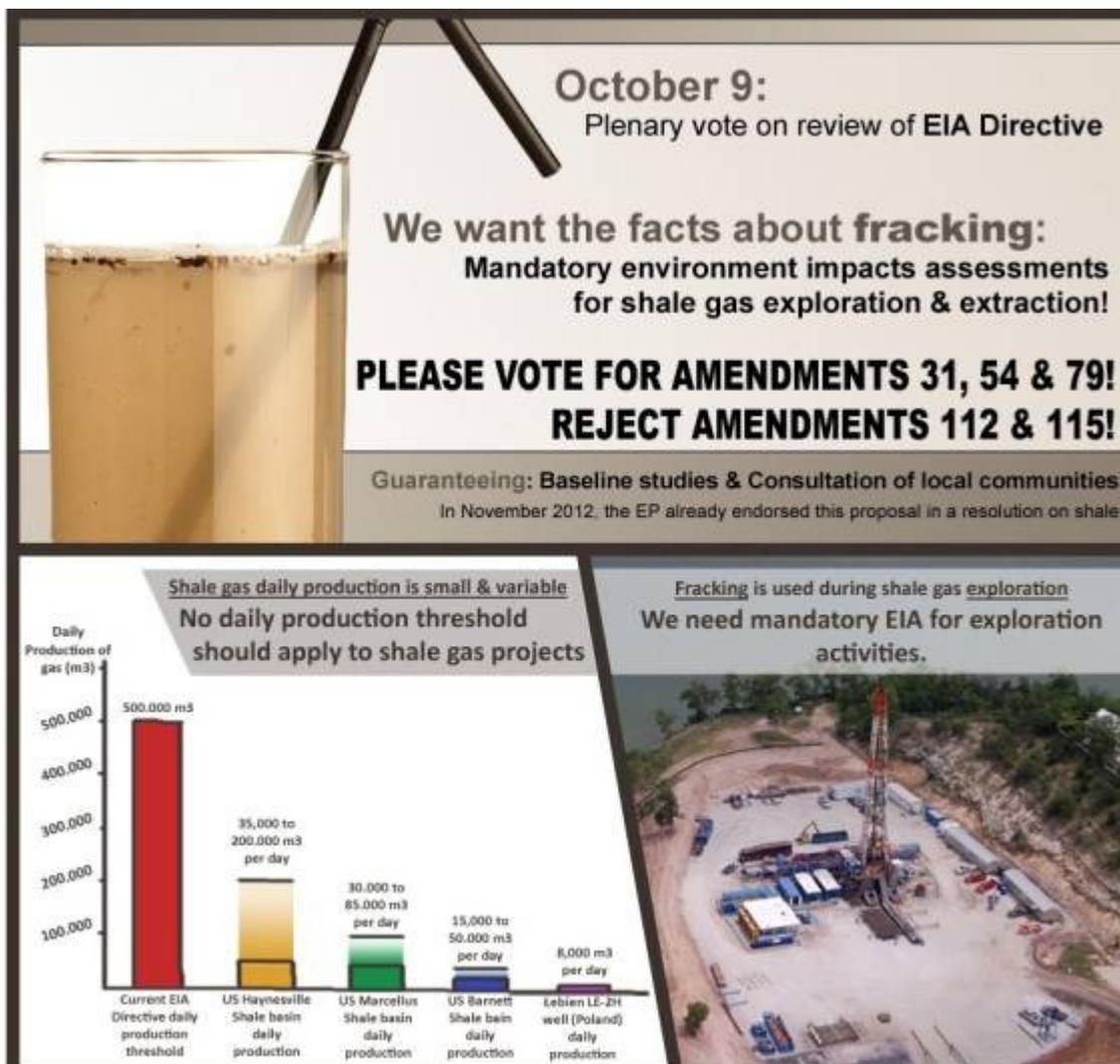
RE: October 9 – Plenary vote on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive – amendments on shale gas and other unconventional hydrocarbons

Dear MEP,

On July 11, the Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee voted overwhelmingly (49-13) in favour of a [report by MEP Zanoni](#) on the European Commission's proposals for a review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive.

The Committee notably adopted proposals to adapt the EIA Directive to the arrival of a new type of industrial-size activities in Europe, namely the plans to explore and extract unconventional hydrocarbon such as shale gas in Europe. The negative environmental, health and climate impacts associated with hydraulic fracturing or fracking - the technique used to explore and extract such unconventional hydrocarbons – have been well documented since the shale gas drilling boom started a decade ago in the United States. The proposals in the Zanoni report allow us to take the necessary measures in order not to repeat the same mistakes observed in the US.

Therefore, I respectfully ask you to offer your support to the current version of the Zanoni report and to the unchanged provisions on shale gas and other unconventional fossil fuels in particular amendments 31, 54 and 79 point (e). I also ask you to reject the amendments 112 and 115, and to vote in favour of deferring the final vote on the report and mandating rapporteur Zanoni to start negotiations with the Council.



These amendments are crucial because the current version of the legislation fails to guarantee a systematic and mandatory EIA before new unconventional fossil fuel projects commence:

- Unconventional fossil fuel projects have a maximum initial production rate of between 115,000 and 250,000 m³/day, which means they cannot meet the 500,000m³/day threshold set in the existing legislation.
- The systematic use of deep drilling and hydraulic fracturing techniques throughout the entire process means that important environmental damage can already occur during the exploration phase. This is why not only the extraction phase but also the exploration phase should be included in Annex I.

The poor environmental record of the unconventional fossil fuel industry in the United States has taught us that:

- It is essential to engage in a systematic gathering of baseline data – with samples of air, water and soil quality – in order to be able to ascertain any air and water contamination that may arise from drilling operations.
- Such industrial developments should not take place without properly consulting the communities living around potential drilling sites.

If large-scale UFF operations are allowed to go ahead in an unregulated way, this industry will repeat the same mistakes as in the United States, with the same dramatic impacts for the climate, environment and public health. I believe it is absolutely vital that this recommendation receives strong support, and I look to you to represent my views in this matter for the good of our constituency and for the rest of Europe.

Yours sincerely,