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E-001898/2017

Answer given by Mr Arias Cañete
on behalf of the Commission
(15.6.2017)

The Commission is committed to the completion of a fully integrated and interconnected internal energy market. Despite recent progress, efforts are still needed in some areas to ensure a secure, affordable and sustainable energy for all consumers.

On 21 December 2016 the Commission opened a call for gas and electricity projects to be submitted as candidates for the third European Union 'Projects of Common Interest' (PCIs) list. In accordance with the Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure (No 347/2013), Projects of Common Interests (PCIs) are established as a result of a process whereby candidate projects, such as Shannon LNG terminal, are assessed by Regional Groups against their contribution to several specific criteria such as market integration, security of supply, competition and sustainability and to their contribution to the specific needs of the priority gas corridor they are belonging to, such as further diversification of routes of supply and increased short-term gas deliverability.

The Commission underlines that during the ongoing third round of PCI identification, the same rules apply to all EU Member States, including the United Kingdom.