

Dear Mr Juncker

26/11/2014

Will you meet us on December 1st? We are two people who will have walked 3150 kilometres to speak to you. We shall walk into Brussels on December 1st from east and west, Alexandru Popescu (Sandu) at the end of a 92 day walk from Pungesti in Romania, while I, Geza Tarjanyi, shall have walked the short distance from Downing Street, London.

We need to talk to you about fracking, about the way, for both of us; our homes, communities and countryside's are being invaded and abused by fracking companies. We represent concerned people from all over Romania and the UK, but also people throughout Europe who are being forced to fight for our environment, for our right to health, clean air and water, for justice and climate. This one industry alone will release into the atmosphere enough methane - the worst greenhouse gas - to overwhelm any savings Europe manages to make in carbon dioxide emissions. Please listen to us.

My 14-day walk is in part a protest against our Prime Minister, David Cameron, who wants to make my home town of Blackpool in Lancashire, north west England "The fracking capital of Europe". He is dismantling democracy, freedom of speech and human rights to force this through.

My house (over eight kilometres from the drilling site) was damaged in the fracking-induced earthquake of April 1st 2011, as were many others on the Fylde coast near Blackpool. We made the world news. Ever since, I have been asking questions and researching the truth about the unconventional oil and gas industry. I have helped start anti-fracking groups in my area and beyond, and helped to raise awareness through meetings and presentations. I have helped connect anti-fracking groups around the country. The handful of groups has grown to over 30 in Lancashire and nearly 300 in the UK.

Women are a major driving force behind the collective awareness that fracking is wrong and needs to be stopped – mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers, tirelessly fighting the powerful industry/government PR juggernaut that tries to tarnish us and undermine our unselfish efforts.

This, my fourth protest walk, follows my two others, from the North of England to London. I met up in Downing Street with representatives of anti-fracking groups from around the country to hand-deliver letters to David Cameron about our fears for our communities and evidence of impacts it could have on us and our children's health and futures. We received nothing but curt, six-line replies.

The British government and House of Lords have too many members with vested interests in the oil and gas industries, too many powerful advisors and lobbyists from within the industry, making any unbiased decision-making impossible. Our regulations in the UK are weak for onshore oil and gas exploration, and we, on the ground, know how pitiful official monitoring has been, how bad 'best practice'.

We look to you, to the European Parliament and Commission, to revisit and recognise the dangers of fracking and other unconventional oil and gas extraction, and to support our plea for a ban on these practices in the European Union.

Yours sincerely,

*Geza Tarjanyi*