

Question for written answer E-005773/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
Bendt Bendtsen (PPE)

Subject: Changes to national support schemes for renewable energy

I have been alerted to a number of examples of national governments weakening investor confidence and the value of investments in renewable energy through changes to support schemes with retroactive effect.

As the Commission will certainly know, Spain, for example, reduced the volume of electricity for which solar plants can receive payment according to the agreed tariff. In addition, a 7 % tax has apparently been imposed on the turnover of electricity produced – conditions that were not in effect when the existing plants were established. In Bulgaria, changes are now to be made to the already agreed feed-in tariff, and these will also apply to plants already in operation and connected to the grid.

These are not therefore isolated cases.

1. Can the Commission confirm that some Member States are attempting to make changes to national support schemes for renewable energy with retroactive effect?
2. Does EU law allow changes to be made to national support schemes for renewable energy with retroactive effect?
3. Does the Commission agree that changes made with retrospective effect to support schemes, which to a large extent reduce the attractiveness of investment already carried out, are damaging for investor confidence and investment in renewable energy projects throughout the internal market?