

**Question for written answer E-005790/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Georgios Katrougkalos (GUE/NGL), Emmanouil Glezos (GUE/NGL), Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL) and Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Restriction of competition affecting the Public Power Corporation (DEH)

Under Law 4273/2014 (146 A) on the 'creation of a new vertically structured electricity company', 30% of the Greek Public Power Corporation (DEH) is to be sold off.

The terms and conditions for the transfer of employment contacts and various assets from the DEH to the new company are laid down in Article 9. Paragraph 5 thereof stipulates that the DEH shall, for six (6) months from completion of the split, refrain from any aggressive commercial practices seeking to win back customers whose power supply contracts have been transferred to the new company.

As a result, the DEH is effectively being prevented from competing with the new private company in the energy sector, despite having transferred to it a substantial share of its clientele.

The Greek Government maintains that, in adopting the law under consideration, it is effectively fulfilling European statutory requirements.

In view of this, does the Commission consider that the provisions preventing competition between the DEH and the newly formed private company comply with European law and in particular with the fundamental principle of free competition?