

**Question for written answer E-007540/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Viviane Reding (PPE)**

Subject: Decision regarding state aid granted to EDF for the Hinkley C nuclear power plant

Several recent articles in the European press have reported that Joaquin Almunia, the Commissioner for Competition, plans to authorise the UK Government to subsidise electricity generation at the Hinkley C nuclear power plant over the next 35 years. Given that the UK authorities have agreed to pay EDF a price well above the current wholesale rate for electricity in the UK, could the Commission please answer the following questions:

1. Why is state aid of this kind not regarded as a distortion of competition?
2. Does the Commission agree that this decision comes at a bad time, given that the new Commission will be appointed in the next few days?
3. At a time when many Member States, first among them Luxembourg, have decided to abandon nuclear energy and prioritise renewables, do you agree that this decision is likely to give the nuclear industry a shot in the arm and discourage future investments in wind and solar energy?