

**Question for written answer E-007987/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D) and Jonás Fernández (S&D)

Subject: Reduction in energy costs

Since 2003, 11 of the 26 major aluminium foundries in the EU have folded. The study carried out on behalf of the Commission for the Centre for European Policy Studies has uncovered evidence that the aluminium industry is facing significant challenges to remain profitable and competitive, most notably the increase in electricity prices and strict regulations.

In fact, the study reveals that up to 40 % of aluminium production costs consist of electricity costs, a sum that is higher in the EU than in other regions. 8 % is attributed to EU legislation, particularly the Emissions Trading Scheme, which has led to the region becoming the only one to see production decline.

Given that the President of the Commission has committed to an agenda of reindustrialising Europe,

1. How does the Commission intend to deal with the loss of competitiveness in the European aluminium industry owing to electricity prices and regulatory costs?
2. What measures is the Commission looking into or planning to implement in order to reduce energy costs for industry in Europe?