

**Question for written answer E-001107/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Iratxe García Pérez (S&D)

Subject: IRENA report on the cost of renewables

The new Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete, said, both during his hearing as Commissioner-designate and on the first occasion he appeared before the Committee on the Environment, that the high cost of renewables was one of the major problems regarding their introduction into the EU.

On 16 January 2015, however, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)¹ published a report maintaining that the costs of generating many renewable technologies have achieved parity with, or are even lower than, those of fossil fuels. In regard to set-up costs, the report indicates that the average price of photovoltaic modules, for example, has fallen by 75 % since 2009 and that domestic photovoltaic systems are now 70 % cheaper than in 2008.

1. Is the Commission aware of the report referred to and does it consider its conclusions valid?
2. How does the Commission plan to help overcome other cost-related obstacles referred to by the Commissioner, such as the lack of a grid interconnection system for renewables that would enable their distribution?
3. What steps is the Commission taking to help correct the technical problems with power storage which the Commissioner referred to as an obstacle in the development of renewables?

¹ www.irena.org/publications