

**Question for written answer E-006408/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: Subsidies for electricity companies buying coal

The Spanish Government's Royal Decree on the coal supply guarantee provides state aid to encourage electricity companies to purchase Spanish coal for use in coal-fired power stations.

Taking into account Council Decision 2010/787/EU on State aid to facilitate the closure of uncompetitive coal mines, as well as EU competition and internal market rules, the EU's targets to cut CO₂ emissions, and the fight against climate change:

1. Does the Commission consider this proposal to be in line with EU law as regards competition, the internal market and indirect subsidies?
2. Spain's national competition and energy authorities have, on a number of occasions, strongly criticised the distortion of the market and 'incongruities' involved in subsidising the burning of coal. What, in this context, is the Commission's interpretation of the aforementioned proposal by the Spanish Government?
3. Spain's electricity generation capacity is four times the average level of demand for 2014. Most of this energy generates fewer emissions than coal. Does the Commission take the view that establishing incentives for burning coal is in line with its climate targets?