

**Question for written answer E-007823/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D) and Edouard Martin (S&D)

Subject: Risk of closure of ELCOGAS - model of clean coal energy production in line with the Europe 2020 strategy

The ELCOGAS complex at Puertollano in Spain was built using EU funds, mainly under the Joule-Thermie programme. It is an integrated gasification combined cycle power station that transforms coal and petroleum coke, which are cheap, safe and local fuels, into synthesis gas with a high level of energy efficiency and many uses apart from combustion in electricity generation.

Using a pioneering process of purification during gasification and a plant for **capturing CO₂** at the pre-combustion phase created in 2010, this power station is capable of producing energy with low emissions of carbon and other pollutants, which are also utilised as by-products.

Inasmuch as the Commission has accepted in its forecast for 2050 - COM(2013)0180 – that fossil fuels will not totally disappear by then, does the Commission not consider that:

1. ELCOGAS follows the model of energy production envisaged in the Europe 2020 strategy's flagship initiative on sustainability, as it complies with the recommendations on clean coal and carbon capture and storage - Directive 2009/31/EC -, energy security - COM(2014)0330 – and decarbonised energy in terms of the Energy Union Package - COM(2015)0080?
2. Given the value of this plant, which is currently at risk of being closed, in economic, environmental and R&D terms, every effort should be made to ensure that it stays open and in operation?