

**Question for written answer E-007824/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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

Subject: Carbon capture, hydrogen production and R&D at ELCOGAS

For over a year now the ELCOGAS IGCC power plant has been under threat of closure. Lack of institutional support and the passivity of the Spanish Government – which continuously promises to set up a specific regulatory framework for the plant but then fails to do so – may well cause it to close, which would deal a severe blow to the local and regional economy and employment situation.

However, apart from its commercial production, the ELCOGAS plant has been carrying out an R&D process on clean coal that is internationally recognised. Furthermore, it is associated with various universities and companies, such as a research group on membranes for CO<sub>2</sub> capture, and it has received numerous awards for innovation and good practice, including one from the IEA in 2012.

This power plant, which received EU funding and was inaugurated in 2010, is a leader in the field of CO<sub>2</sub> capture and hydrogen production, as well as carrying out research on the use of alternative fuels such as urban waste, etc., and local coal and coke.

1. In view of ELCOGAS's importance in the field of research, does the Commission not consider that steps should be taken at an EU level in order to ensure its continuity?
2. Is this not an example of an enterprise committed to R&D&i that should be exported as a model of good practice in this sector?