

**Question for written answer E-014300/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Barbara Kappel (ENF)**

Subject: German-Austrian single bidding zone

The ACER has issued an opinion calling for an end to artificial congestion and thus the splitting of the German-Austrian single bidding zone and justified its position by pointing to heavy grid load through RES and the fact that the expansion of the grid in Germany has not yet been completed. A study by the RWTH Aachen has concluded that separation makes no sense and that the problem could be solved more effectively by a secured re-dispatch. Frontier Economics and Consentec think that a separation would result in extra costs of EUR 300 million for the end-user. A separation would also militate against the creation of an integrated single market in electricity.

1. What solutions does the Commission see for this problem?
2. How does the Commission intend to coordinate previously uncoordinated approaches to the design of the electricity market - particularly with regard to capacity markets?
3. What is the Commission's position on possible solutions such as a strategic grid reserve, an opening of balancing markets and balance group loyalty in order to avoid capacity mechanisms?