

**Question for written answer E-014303/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Barbara Kappel (ENF)**

Subject: Energy storage

Energy storage can do much to further the goals of an Energy Union (security of supply, energy efficiency, decarbonisation, etc.), but its treatment for the purposes of EU regulation varies from one case to the next. The Gas Directive assigns a key role to storage within the gas distribution system, whereas the Electricity Directive does not even mention storage facilities. Because the position is unclear, some Member States (for example Austria) are levying network charges twice over on electricity from pumped-storage power plants. Decentralised storage can encourage own production, but there is as yet no common body of EU rules that could improve matters overall, bearing in mind in particular that grid metres, feed-in tariffs, self-generation, and consumption are regulated entirely at Member State level.

1. In the opinion of the Commission, how important are energy storage facilities, especially for electricity, from the point of view of completing the Energy Union?
2. What measures is the Commission thinking of taking to make storage facilities a more fully integrated part of electricity grids while enabling their role in terms of security of supply to be reflected more accurately?
3. Will energy storage facilities play a role in flexible power production markets?