

**Question for written answer E-014855/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Barbara Kappel (ENF)**

Subject: Security of supply

In the light of existing, secured capacity and the modelling exercises conducted with a view to balancing supply and demand on the German-Austrian electricity market, it is clear that the existing overcapacity will have disappeared by 2020 and that by 2030 a gap of 30 GW will have opened up between the peak load which must be met and secured capacity. Security of supply will be seriously jeopardised, and there will be few incentives to invest. When set against the current electricity price, the full cost of generating electricity is so high that even building lignite-fired power stations (full cost of €36/MWh, as against a current electricity price of €32/MWh) would not be economically viable. Meanwhile, gas-fired power stations with a full cost of €95/MWh are currently being mothballed or decommissioned.

1. In the light of the rather uncoordinated approach taken thus far to the issues of capacity markets and price zones, what scope does the Commission see for balancing load fluctuations and electricity supply more effectively, in particular as power exchanges, the use of balancing energy and re-dispatch measures are not always sufficient?
2. In the Commission's view, what role could a strategic reserve play as a mechanism for offsetting fluctuations in load?
3. In the context of the new design for the energy market, does the Commission regard the use of price spikes by electricity producers as a means of recouping their investments as acceptable?