

**Question for written answer E-014856/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Barbara Kappel (ENF)**

Subject: Electricity prices for industrial firms

According to Eurostat, average electricity prices for industrial users in Germany and Austria are €133/MWh and €188/MWh respectively, 105% and 189% more respectively than the average US electricity price of €65/MWh. The affordability of electricity and, by extension, the competitiveness of European industry are being undermined by massive support payments: in 2012, energy subsidies for generating plants totalled €22 billion for fossil/nuclear fuels and €41 billion for renewables. These figures must be set against the €63 billion in support payments for power stations throughout the EU and a further €60 billion in tax concessions and free emissions allowances. Support payments thus account for some 50% of the total electricity system costs of roughly €250 billion.

1. In the light of this energy cost disadvantage, what measures will the Commission take to ensure that the industrialisation target of 20% by 2020 is achieved?
2. How will the Commission divide up the costs inherent in making greater use of renewable energy sources so that European industry is not placed at cost disadvantage in the long run?
3. Will derogations be granted from the rules on surcharges, for example for the use of electricity from in-house power plants?