

**Question for written answer E-015307/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Discount rates for energy efficiency measures

The Impact Assessment Guidelines that were in place when the impact assessment for the 2030 energy efficiency target was carried out were SEC(2009)92 from 15 January 2009, including its annexes. It is stated in SEC(2009)92: 'When 'discounting' is used, it should be applied both to costs and benefits. You should use a discount rate of 4%.'

Since the publication of SWD(2014) 255 final, the new Better Regulation guidelines SWD (2015) 111 have been published (19 May 2015). 'Tool No 54' of these new guidelines explicitly states: 'The social discount rate is the rate most used in Impact Assessments, as these normally consider costs and benefits together from the point of view of society as a whole (rather than from the point of view of a single stakeholder group). The recommended social discount rate is 4%. In general, it is not appropriate to use alternative social discount rates, as using the 4% rate consistently in Impact Assessments and an evaluation ensures coherence and comparability.'

Why did the Commission impact assessment use 'economy-wide modelling', with a 17.5 % discount rate, for calculating energy system costs for the 2030 energy efficiency target, instead of calculating system costs from a societal perspective, based on actual costs and benefits?