

Question for written answer E-000471/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Commission inquiry into compensation paid to the company administering the gas storage unit at the Castor facility

As I have mentioned previously in written questions E-007770/2014, E-007050/2014 and E-007685/2014, the Spanish Government took the decision to award EUR 1.35 billion in compensation to the company administering the gas storage unit located at the Castor facility. The company's operations have been directly linked to more than 500 earthquakes. What is more, the Spanish Government ruled that the company's compensation would be paid for out of the public purse through energy bills, with damaging consequences for family income and the productive economy. According to media reports this week, the Commission has accepted a complaint filed by a number of Catalan organisations on the subject of this compensation, which is now being looked into by the Commission as a possible case of improper state aid.

What is the nature of the inquiry that the Commission is conducting into this matter?

Does the Commission consider that the compensation paid to the company administering the Castor facility is in line with EU legislation?

Does the Commission think that Spain has acted in accordance with EU legislation in making Spanish consumers foot the bill?