

**Question for written answer E-002704/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)

Subject: Social discount rates for energy efficiency

In its answer of 3 February 2016 to question E-015307/15, the Commission stated that ‘the use of a social discount rate ... is particularly relevant for assessing public investments, such as a new highway or railway system.’

The Commission further states that ‘to analyse the cost impacts and affordability of policies for households and businesses, discount rates must use a private discount factor.’

Could the Commission explain why a social discount rate was not used for calculating energy system costs for the 2030 energy efficiency target – and is reportedly not being used for the impact assessment currently being undertaken for the review of the Energy Efficiency Directive – when it has been used in other areas that are equally, if not more, dependent on decisions made by individual companies and households, e.g. in determining least-cost minimum performance levels for products and buildings and in setting CO2 targets for transport?