

**Question for written answer E-004021/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)

Subject: Smart grids

The roll-out of smart grids is a major priority for EU energy policy, and in terms of the objective of establishing an Energy Union, since it is expected that energy efficiency can be increased by 27%. However, there is widespread concern about data security within complex smart grids, especially as regards sensitive personal data related to patterns in individual consumers' energy consumption.

Can the Commission say what EU-level rules protect consumer data in this connection, including as regards ensuring that owner-occupiers can opt out of having smart meters installed at home?

In a 2014 benchmark report, the Commission expected significant cost savings of about 3% for consumers, in general, and as much as 10% for some consumers. Current experience in EU Member States with a high level of smart-grid roll-out would suggest, however, that savings are more modest. Average savings in Finland has been 1-2%, while in Sweden it has been 1-3%.

Does the Commission propose, accordingly, to maintain its assessment of potential consumer cost savings resulting from the introduction of smart grids, and, if so, how will the Commission prove its accuracy?