Question for written answer E-004310/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Exceptional free emission allowances for power generation in Greece

The Commission proposal of 15/7/2015 regarding the European emissions trading system (ETS) for 2021-2030 amending Directive 2003/87/EC fails to remedy existing shortcomings.

Aside from Italy, none of Greece's neighbours are required to purchase emission allowances for power generation, either because they are not EU Member States or because they are exempt from that requirement because of their low GDP. This is leading to distortions of electricity prices and competition, as reflected in increased electricity imports by Greece, threatening the viability of its Public Power Corporation.

Also, while the proposal provides for free emission allocation for power generation in Member States with per capita GDP below 60 % of the EU average in 2013, the reference year, this does not include Greece, whose per capita GDP that year was just above the cut-off level (62%), although it met the requisite criterion in 2014 (59.7%).

In view of the continued recession created by the memorandum requirements, the rise in energy poverty and the loss of competitiveness of Greek companies, will the Commission take the necessary measures to ensure that Greece is exceptionally accorded free emission allowances for power generation?