

**Question for written answer E-006498/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Carolina Punset (ALDE)**

Subject: Aid for domestic coal

In Europe we are now seeing the paradox of progress being made in the use of renewable energy at the same time as power generation from the burning of lignite (the most polluting form of coal) is reaching record levels, for instance in Germany, Spain and Poland.

Another paradox running counter to climate change objectives is the continuing aid provided for domestic coal extraction in the Member States, with the support of the Commission.

In connection with this measure, Spain's caretaker government has obtained authorisation from the Commission to grant additional aid to the Spanish coal industry until 2018 to offset price falls, together with authorisation for its plan for the orderly cessation of coal mining over the period 2013-2018.

Does the Commission think these measures are compatible with achieving climate goals?

According to a recent Commission publication, approval has been given (code SA.34332) to the closure plan for uncompetitive coal mines which have received aid and will receive aid for an orderly closure, but this has not been announced. When will the Commission publish details of this plan?