**Question for written answer E-008203/2016**
**to the Commission**
Rule 130
**Carolina Punset (ALDE) and Javier Nart (ALDE)**

Subject: Capacity payments for electricity generation in Spain

Capacity payments currently represent a huge economic aid for generation of electricity from fossil fuels – which are highly polluting and contrary to climate change policies – even when no real security of supply problem exists, as is the case in Spain.

At the same time, capacity payments distort competition. This acts as a deterrent to investment in renewable energy of any kind, perpetuating the exclusion from the market of more competitive operators whose product is more compatible with climate goals.

Following the identification by the Commission, in its April 2016 Interim Report of the Sector Inquiry on Capacity Mechanisms in the Electricity Sector, of significant shortcomings:

Will the Commission put a figure on the public money Member States have injected as capacity payments for electricity generation technologies using fossil and nuclear fuels? Will the Commission determine the extent to which these capacity payments distort electricity markets?

What steps will the Commission take to ensure, in its newly designed energy market, that capacity mechanisms are justified by security of supply, the single energy market, the EU's decarbonisation policies and the climate agreements?