

**Question for written answer E-008206/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Carolina Punset (ALDE)

Subject: Assigning CO₂ emissions rights for coal-fired electricity generation

In recent statements, Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete has pointed out that the decarbonisation of the EU is now an unstoppable process, and that renewables will have a key role to play in combating climate change.

He has said that the EU's goal is to completely decarbonise its economy.

Mr Arias Cañete has, on the other hand, emphasised that the EU's CO₂ emissions trading market is the largest in the world and will be the cornerstone of European energy policy.

It would nevertheless seem – according to statements made by the Polish Prime Minister's office at the beginning of September – that some Member States, such as Poland, will only support EU ratification of the Paris and Doha climate agreements if Brussels backs the construction of new coal-fired power plants via the allocation of free CO₂ emissions rights.

Given that the EU is supposed to be in the process of becoming a low-carbon economy, is the Commission intending to back the construction of new lignite-fired power stations?

Is the Commission considering allowing Member States to assign free CO₂ emissions rights for coal-fired electricity generation, thereby causing severe disruption on the market and hindering the breakthrough of renewable energies?