**Question for written answer E-008931/2016**
**to the Commission**
Rule 130
**Carolina Punset (ALDE)**

Subject: The interruptibility service in Spain and how it fits into EU legislation

In Spain's electricity system – which has huge surplus capacity – the cost to consumers of payments for the interruptibility service, yet another capacity mechanism, comes to around EUR 500 million. The budget for the service is met through auctions, but no figures are given explaining why this service is necessary or how the amounts involved are arrived at.

1. Does the Commission consider that this system of assigning service interruptibility – with power requirements decided on in secret, using an unknown methodology and without involving sector representatives – complies with the rules and goals of the EU's energy policy and the construction of the internal energy market?

2. Does the Commission consider it right that the move to an auction mechanism, as occurs in Spain, can be reconciled with a system that has a budget set by government and in which auctions can be called where necessary to use up a budget whose size no one in the sector or society knows?

3. In Spain, renewable energy subsidies were cut suddenly and retroactively largely on account of their alleged burden on electricity end costs. Does the Commission believe it is right that Spanish consumers are having to bear the brunt of EUR 525 million per year in order to offer a service that is not used and has surplus capacity?