

**Question for written answer E-009738/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Carolina Punset (ALDE)

Subject: Independence of the Spanish electricity market regulator

A recent IEEFA report¹ points out a number of shortcomings with regard to the Spanish electricity market, including the fact that there is no genuinely independent energy regulator.

The report states that the Spanish electricity market regulator is vulnerable to pressure from major public service firms, energy-intensive industries and national coal producers.

What is more, the Spanish regulator takes the view that capacity payments are justifiable because renewables have cut the level of market share held by other technologies, and in 2015 the energy minister actually suggested that a tax on renewables could finance capacity payments.

The Spanish Government's method of appointing advisors, its revolving-door policy between posts in the regulator's office and in government, and the fact that Spain's Ministry for Industry has curbed its powers means that Spain's electricity market regulator does not have the necessary independence or systems to carry out its regulatory duties.

Does the Commission take the view that Spain's national markets and competition Commission (CNMC) has the level of independence, the systems and the powers that it needs to be a genuine electricity market regulator in the country?

¹ http://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Spain%E2%80%99s-Capacity-Market-Energy-Security-or-Subsidy_December-2016.pdf