

**Question for written answer E-000425/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE) and Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Compatibility of the Spanish electricity market with the common European energy market

Between 2008 and 2014, the average price of electricity in Spain increased twice as fast as the average in other Member States,<sup>1</sup> and in January 2017 the price per MWh was 117 % higher than in January 2016.<sup>2</sup> Spanish energy consumers are also among the least satisfied in Europe with the service they receive.<sup>3</sup>

Spanish consumers are also afforded very little protection, with a 25% discount for only a very limited number of vulnerable citizens. This has been unable to prevent deaths as a result of households being cut off.<sup>4</sup>

The Spanish Government's mismanagement of the energy market led to it being qualified as an oligopoly by the Vice-President of the Commission, Joaquín Almunia.<sup>5</sup>

1. Does the Commission believe the situation in the Spanish energy market to be compatible with the priority to create a European energy market able to offer consumers the best prices and protect them?
2. Is the oligopoly in the Spanish electricity market compatible with the EU's strategy for establishing a single energy market?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.viaempresa.cat/ca/notices/2016/04/espanya-el-pais-europeu-on-mes-augmenta-la-tarifa-electrica-des-del-2008-18531.php>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.lainformacion.com/espana/Hoy-vuelve-disparar-precio-hora\\_0\\_991700954.html](http://www.lainformacion.com/espana/Hoy-vuelve-disparar-precio-hora_0_991700954.html)

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/2014\\_iem\\_communication\\_annex2.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/2014_iem_communication_annex2.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-38024374>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.expansion.com/2013/12/20/empresas/energia/1387530526.html>