

**Question for written answer E-002768/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Carolina Punset (ALDE)

Subject: Mercury emissions to air in large combustion plants

The levels set in the Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions for the largest coal plants are very lax: <1-4µg for hard coal- and <1-7µg for lignite-fired plants.

The revised Best Available Techniques Reference Document for Large Combustion Plants (LCP BREF) allows an emission discharge level of mercury up to 0.2- 3µg/l, whereas the maximum allowable level in the US is 0.8µg/l and whereas in Germany, several plants reach 0.1µg/l, which is even lower than the 'ambitious' BAT range set in the LCP BREF.

Why do the revised BAT conclusions set a wide BAT emission range of mercury emissions to air of '<1-7µg' for lignite-fired power plants when it is clear that <1µg is achieved with the use of dedicated mercury controls?

Why do the EU BAT conclusions fall behind the internationally agreed Best Available Techniques/Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) guidance, where the level of 1µg to air is considered as BAT, seven times lower than that foreseen in the revised LCP BREF's BAT range? The same applies to water discharge, comparing it with the US limit of 0.8µg/l (factor 3 lower).

Will the Commission make sure that the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) EU safety net emission limit values (ELs) in Annex V are adapted pursuant to Article 73 thereof in order to reflect technical progress and to limit abuses of derogations under Article 15(4)?