

**Question for written answer E-003539/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Clean Energy Package and security of electricity supply in Member States

On 11 January 2017, a yellow alert regarding security of electricity supply had to be declared for two weeks in Austria and other parts of Europe (in particular France). During harsh winters, when little wind or photovoltaic energy is available, the flaws in the European electricity supply system become apparent.

Austria is currently able to offset supply bottlenecks by importing electricity. Only the Czech Republic and Germany still have the power plant capacity to export electricity, however, and the planned closures of power plants in Germany, the nuclear phase-out in Switzerland and Italy and expanding electromobility are unlikely to improve the situation.

Under the Commission's 2030 targets, the shortfall is to be met by using green electricity. Professor Günther Brauner has noted that from now on at least 15% of the installed capacity must come from base load power plants if the security of the system is to be guaranteed at all times.

More and more of these base load power plants are being closed down, however, because subsidies for green energy plants and other distortions in the energy market (in particular ETS and local funding) have made them too expensive and they are too far down energy market merit orders.

What view does the Commission take of the number of thermal power plants in the European internal energy market?

Does the Fourth Energy Package include enough base load power plant capacity to cover the period of transition to a completely decentralised electricity world in 2050?