

**Question for written answer E-004388/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Planned coal-fired power plants in the Western Balkans

Eight coal-fired power plants are planned to be built in Member States in the Western Balkans, and none are in compliance with the emission limit values for air pollution established in the EU's new reference document on best available techniques for large combustion plants (LCP BREF) expected to come into force later this year.

Most governments in Western Balkans have already adopted legislation incorporating the new LCP BREF standards as criteria for permitting new coal projects, which means that they will apply to new plants as soon as the LCP BREF enter into force.

However, feedback received so far suggests not only that none of the plants' promoters have any intention of changing their projects to comply with the new LCP BREF standards, but also that none of the responsible ministries in the countries concerned will insist that they do so, leaving these countries open to legal challenges, and to the need for expensive retrofits in the future, placing further burdens on the scarce budgets of countries whose population are already struggling with poverty.

As the Commission plans to include Chapter II of the Industrial Emissions Directive in the Energy Community acquis in the course of 2018, what does the Commission intend to do in response to the coal-fired power plants planned to be built in the Western Balkans countries despite the fact that they do not comply with the new LCP BREF standards?