

**Question for written answer E-005804/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Marine ecosystems as a source of renewable energy

In 2014 renewable sources of energy accounted for 16% of the EU's final gross energy consumption.

The energy transition objectives form an integral part of the Energy Union: thus scientific research into inexpensive and renewable energy solutions is an important strategic issue.

According to research by the State University of Pennsylvania (Professor Chris Gorski), ecosystems such as estuaries could provide a renewable source of energy, given the proximity between seawater and freshwater, which is capable of generating electricity by means of a system similar to battery electrodes.

The capacity of the association between seawater and freshwater to generate electricity had already been demonstrated in previous scientific research.

Nevertheless, the aforementioned research reportedly demonstrates a capacity twice that found by previous research: 0.4 Watts per m². Estuaries could eventually account for 40% of the world's electricity production.

1. Has the Commission considered the above-mentioned energy source in the context of the European energy transition?
2. Does the Commission finance or intend to finance research programmes into the energy source in question?