

**Question for written answer E-007136/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Carolina Punset (ALDE)

Subject: The Spanish Government's plan to prevent the closure of coal-fired power stations

The comprehensive reform of the legislation pertaining to the electricity markets proposed by the Commission aims at enhancing market design, while contributing to the competitive development of investments in renewables and energy efficiency by guaranteeing security of supply. It clarifies and reinforces existing essential market principles, such as the establishment of low exit barriers to tackle overcapacity.

The Spanish Government has announced its plans to introduce a law to intervene on a discretionary basis, thereby preventing the closure of private generation assets competing on the electricity market¹. In spite of current overcapacity, the Energy Minister has already stated that he is targeting coal-fired power stations by preventing their closure.

In light of the above:

Is the Spanish Government running counter to basic European common market principles?

Does this measure undermine legal certainty for existing investors and operators?

Could it threaten the development of renewable energy and the operation of other, flexible plants?

¹ https://cincodias.elpais.com/cincodias/2017/11/17/companias/1510951982_750087.html