

Question for written answer E-001154/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Closure of power stations

The Spanish Government's Ministry of Industry has published its plans for a royal decree that would tighten the conditions under which power stations can be closed down.

However, in its analysis of the decree, Spain's National Commission on Markets and Competition (CNMC) has warned of the legal uncertainty that the new criteria would create and their potential incompatibility with the new EU regulation under discussion on the internal market, given that 'market rules must allow the entry and exit of power generation and supply companies according to assessments of the economic and financial viability of their operations'. Concerning the potential impact on prices, the CNMC notes that if the Spanish Government's proposals were taken to their logical conclusion, they would prevent the closure of any power station, since 'the closure of any plant that has performed minimal service in a given year could lead to an increase in the market price, however small it might be, as a result of which the closure would be rejected'.

1. Could the Commission give its opinion on the Spanish Government's proposals to make it more difficult to close down power stations?
2. Could the Commission state its view on how these proposals square with the new plans for the internal market, and whether they comply with the EU's decarbonisation objectives?