

Question for written answer E-004864/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (EFDD)

Subject: Commission support for solar road research

While China has officially opened the first solar motorway and France, in Normandy, is trialling a one-kilometre solar road section, this new technology raises as many questions as it does hopes. Photovoltaic cells covering roads are potentially a major energy source. For France, according to estimates, covering a quarter of the road network would meet the country's total energy needs. There are a host of questions, however, as regards safety and, above all, the economic and environmental return on the process. It therefore ought to be established whether maintenance work and the materials needed to develop the technology will cut that return. To provide answers, technical improvements and large-scale trials would appear essential.

Does the Commission intend supporting research into the effectiveness, safety and economic and environmental viability of solar roads?