

**Question for written answer P-014603/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: UK Renewable Energy Targets 2020

There is ongoing and considerable concern that current UK energy policy threatens the UK's ability to meet renewable energy targets.

It has now been reported that Energy Secretary Amber Rudd is privately aware that the UK is on track to miss its legally binding obligation to achieve EU renewable energy targets by an estimated 50TWh, or 3.5 % of its 15 % obligation – a shortfall of almost 25 %. This stands in contrast to her public position, that the UK is on track to meet the targets (confirmed in statements to Parliament on 22/06/15 and 17/09/15).

Reports suggest Ms Rudd is considering potential strategies for addressing this, which include reaching an agreement with an EU/EEA Member State that expects to over-achieve on its targets, to buy 'statistical credits' from it in 2020, and engaging with other EU Member States to collectively negotiate some flexibility in meeting the target.

Can the Commissioner confirm that, as these targets are mandatory, they will not be subject to negotiated flexibility?

Will the Commission indicate whether the system of trading in 'statistical credits' was intended to enable countries to reduce their commitments to domestic renewable energy production?

Can the Commission confirm that Member States must ensure they have in place a credible plan to meet the targets?