

**Question for written answer P-015533/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Formal notice issued to France concerning the hydropower sector

The Commission sent formal notice to the French State on 22 October 2015 regarding EDF's dominant position in the hydropower sector.

This could force EDF to shed its public assets in this sector. The arrival of new entrants would threaten existing production and distribution synergies, would make available to private operators annual revenue valued at EUR 2.5 billion and could lead to increased costs and loss of status for its workers.

Furthermore, a dam has to be managed in close cooperation with local communities so as to take into account the needs of farmers and tourism and the requirements of navigation and the environment.

1. Has the Commission taken all these factors into account? Does it believe that these public service obligations can be performed with the same diligence by entities motivated by short-term profit?
2. Some States have managed to obtain exemptions from the requirements governing the opening of hydropower concessions by limiting competition or allowing greater freedom in the choice and duration of concessions. What conditions must French dams meet in order to benefit from such arrangements?