

**Question for written answer P-003734/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Commission opinion on the taxation arrangements for the Electrabel energy corporation

On 17 March 2016, in response to my question on the taxation arrangements for Electrabel in Belgium in connection with the draft law on the nuclear energy tax, the Commissioner indicated that the discussions between the Belgian Government and the European Commission were still under way to determine the presence of possible State aid.

On Tuesday, 3 May, the daily *L'Écho* revealed that in an opinion of 25 April the Council of State maintains that the law, and the agreement between the Belgian State and Electrabel, can come into force only once the Commission has reached a decision and judged that they do not constitute State aid incompatible with EU rules.

1. Is the Commission aware of the opinion of the Council of State?
2. Can it inform me of the state of these ongoing discussions?
3. Has the Commission received the additional explanations it asked for on several issues, including in particular on how Belgium determined that it needs an additional 1 000 MW?