

**Question for written answer P-007266/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Franz Obermayr (ENF)**

Subject: Division of the German-Austrian electricity price zone

The European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) is considering dividing the common German-Austrian electricity price zone and is expected to take a final decision on the matter in November. The ground stated by ACER for this initiative is undesirable electricity flows – loop flows – via the Polish and Czech electricity grids.

1. What view does the Commission take of the plans for dividing the German-Austrian electricity price zone from the point of view of the risks that it poses to integration of the European energy market and the risks to the Energy Union which is aspired to, due to the end of the best-practice example of the common electricity market in Germany and Austria?
2. Would not such a measure, in addition, constitute a backward step in the context of liberalisation of the electricity market and thus be contrary to the implementation of the Third Internal Energy Market Package?
3. In recent weeks, the loop flows referred to by ACER have been significantly reduced; moreover, according to experts, if a dividing line were to be drawn, that ought theoretically to be done not at the Austrian border but inside Germany (in northern Bavaria). Why does the Commission nonetheless consider a division of the common electricity market area at the border between Germany and Austria to be appropriate?