

**Question for written answer P-000481/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Reopening of a coal-fired power station in Italy

The cold and the problems with French nuclear power stations (<http://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/impresa-e-territori/2017-01-13/allarme-freddo--riaprono-tre-vecchie-centrali--221953.shtml?uuid=ADIHCcYC>) have prompted the Italian Ministry for Economic Development (MED) to ask ENEL and A2A to postpone their decommissioning of the coal-fired power stations in Genoa, Bastardo and Chivasso.

Under Directive 2005/89/EC concerning the internal electricity market, Member States may take measures to maintain the balance between supply and demand, provided that those measures are non-discriminatory.

Supposing that it may not be possible to deal with the situation using renewable energy and energy efficiency, there are numerous operators in Italy who run thermal power plants that are coal-fired (the most polluting, with the greatest greenhouse gas emissions), gas-fired or combined-cycle (the least unsustainable).

1. Does the Commission not think that the request by the MED is in breach of the principles of free competition enshrined in the legislative framework relating to the internal energy market and reiterated in the directives designed to safeguard security of electricity supply, such as Directive 2005/89/EC?
2. In its view, does the MED's request to delay the decommissioning of power stations that have a particularly severe impact on the environment and health comply with EU global warming and air quality commitments?