

**Question for written answer P-001749/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Monte Amiata geothermal power plant

The geothermal power plants on Monte Amiata produce 11% of Tuscany's electricity, causing CO₂ equivalent emissions that are higher than those from a gas-fired power station of equal capacity. The substances emitted into the atmosphere come from fluids that are extracted from thousands of metres below the ground; without human intervention, they would mostly remain confined underground¹.

Geothermal energy is one of the renewable energy sources that is benefiting from incentives because the use of renewables is one of the measures being adopted to reduce CO₂ emissions.

Is it true that the CO₂ emissions caused by the Monte Amiata geothermal power plants are not included in the EU registries of greenhouse gas emissions? Is it true also that Italy is including the electricity from Monte Amiata in its estimates of the reduction in CO₂ emissions achieved using renewable energy, by considering this electricity as a source of CO₂ savings when it is actually a source of considerable emissions?

If the above is true, does the Commission think it is logical and will it take action to put an end to the paradox of a Member State granting EU incentives for renewables to greenhouse gas-emitting plants? If it does not intend to do so, can it explain why not?

¹ <http://www.arpat.toscana.it/notizie/arpatnews/2014/122-14/Bravi%20M%20Basosi%20R%20Environmental%20impact%20of%20electricity%20from%20selected%20geothermal%20power.pdf> ; data from prior to the opening of the Bagnore 4 plant, which presumably involved an increase in greenhouse gas emissions.