

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1474/00
by Alejandro Agag Longo (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Renewable energy

Renewable energy is a major objective of the EU, in response to the undertakings entered into in the Kyoto Protocol of late 1997 with regard to combating climate change. It was, accordingly, included in the Commission's 1998 white paper on renewable energy, and fully supported by the Council and Parliament as one of the main priorities for the Community's energy and environment policies.

The Commission is currently finalising a proposal for a directive on the promotion of renewable energy within the internal market in electricity, which is expected to be made available in the next few weeks.

Does the Commission not believe that the present draft guidelines on state aids for the environment could jeopardise, marginalise or even render useless the efforts currently being made by all the parties involved to establish a coherent Community market for the promotion of renewable energy within the internal market in electricity? Does the Commission not believe that account should be taken of the fact that electricity generation from renewable sources is today considerably more expensive than the conventional equivalent, and that there is therefore a need for active promotion and support to enable it to compete?