

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1995/01

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to the Commission

Subject: Expiry of the ECSC Treaty and coal aid

In the Annex to the Green Paper entitled 'Towards a European strategy for the security of energy supply', the Commission states that the security-of-supply argument cannot under any circumstances exempt the Member States from the requirement to rationalise the coal sector.

The ECSC Treaty contains a specific reference to this concept (unlike the other Community Treaties), for which reason it could be argued that responsibility for the security of energy supply continues to lie with the Member States.

What legal basis has the Commission taken for the purpose of notifying the Member States that they cannot argue security of supply in order to justify aid to coal production when coal is in any case scarcely traded within the Community?