

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1996/01

by María Rodríguez Ramos (PSE) and Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Expiry of the ECSC Treaty and coal aid

The Commission Communication on an EU strategy for sustainable development argues that the EU's actions must be consistent with the objectives of sustainable development and one of the measures it proposes (in view of the damage which coal is alleged to do to the environment) the gradual withdrawal of production subsidies by 2010.

Does it not occur to the Commission that, if there is an inconsistency in authorising aid for an allegedly 'dirty' energy source such as coal produced within the European Union, the production of electricity from imported coal would have to be banned?

Is the Commission really intending to ban all coal-based electricity production throughout the European Union?