

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1997/01

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to the Commission

Subject: Expiry of the ECSC Treaty and coal aid

At the recent EU Intergovernmental Conference the Member States rejected the idea of giving the EU powers in energy-related matters. Since the ECSC Treaty expires on 23 July 2002, it could be argued that there is no longer any clear legal basis for EU intervention in an energy sector whose production is not traded between the Member States.

What legal basis is the Commission intending to adopt for the purpose of regulating State aid to energy sources, including coal?