

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1998/01

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

Subject: Expiry of the ECSC Treaty and coal aid

In its Green Paper on a European strategy for safeguarding the energy supply, the Commission acknowledges that the State aid allocated to the various energy sources is not transparent. Such a statement surely does not apply to Community coal aid, which is transparent on account of the requirement for authorisation which is laid down in the ECSC Treaty.

The same Green Paper also states that there is currently no accurate Community list of all the forms of aid which the Member States assign to the various energy products and it proposes starting to draw up a list of the State aid made available to energy sources.

In the light of this conclusion and the expiry of the ECSC Treaty on 23 July 2002, does the Commission consider that it is able to ensure fair treatment for all energy sources, including coal?