

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5856/06

by Alejo Vidal-Quadras (PPE-DE) and Antonio López-Istúriz White (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Extension of electricity grids in Spain

With reference to Spain's current laws governing the extension of electricity grids for the purpose of serving new clients, is the Commission aware that, except in special cases of a residual nature, those who apply for an extension or the owners of the land through which the extension will pass must pay the full cost of the extension and that the new infrastructure must subsequently be handed over without compensation to the area distributor, who has a monopoly on the management and operation of the grid and on the supply of electricity to the final paying consumer?

Does the Commission consider this arrangement to be compatible with Articles 3(3) and 15(2) of European Parliament and Council Directive 2003/54/EC<sup>1</sup> of 26 June 2003 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and repealing Directive 96/92/EC, and with Article 86(1) of the EC Treaty? Has the Commission taken (or is it thinking of taking) any action to alleviate the situation described above, which has a detrimental effect on the cost of housing in Spain and on the process of liberalising the European electricity market?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 176, 15.7.2003, p. 37