

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3049/08
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to the Commission

Subject: Liberalisation of the electricity market in Bulgaria

The objectives of establishing a common European energy policy are to reduce import dependency, improve competitiveness and promote sustainable development. One of the areas of the common energy policy is the internal market in electricity and gas. A 'third liberalisation package' is currently going through the legislative procedure, but implementation of existing legislative requirements is also important for achieving the objectives.

On 19 October 2007 Bulgaria announced a ban on the export of electricity during the winter. That ban, which entered into force in January 2008 and lasted until it was lifted at the end of March 2008, disrupted the operations of energy companies, prevented competition in the market and was contrary to the principles underlying the liberalisation of the electricity market.

What action did the Commission take as a result of this restriction on electricity trading? What steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure that such restrictions on the operations of energy companies are not repeated, either in Bulgaria or in the energy markets of the other Member States?