

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6603/09
by Hynek Fajmon (ECR)
to the Commission

Subject: Safe operation of transmission systems at risk from surges in electricity generation by wind power farms

According to official information released by ČEPS, a.s., which is responsible for the transmission of electrical energy in the Czech Republic, operational problems were encountered at the end of November 2009. At that time the transmission system was operating close to its safety limits. This situation was caused by the surge in electricity generation in wind power farms in northern Germany and the ensuing electricity overflow from Germany and Poland to the Czech network.

The costs of adapting to such surge situations in cross-border electricity overflows have, however, to be borne by operators who did not cause the problem and are passed on the end consumer. There is as yet no system in place for paying compensation for the costs incurred to deal with such situations.

In the light of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions?

1. Is the European Commission aware that European environmental legislation, and in particular the massive support for generating electricity from wind energy, can have this negative impact in the energy sector?
2. How does the Commission intend to ensure the safe operation of the transmission networks in the face of surges in electricity generation from wind power farms?
3. Is the Commission aware that there is no mechanism on the European electricity market for paying compensation for the costs arising from surges in electricity generation and the consequent cross-border overflows to operators who did not cause the surge in generation? Does the Commission intend to propose some ways out of this situation? If so, what exactly?