

**Question for written answer E-001403/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Complaint filed with the Commission by the Hellenic Association of Photovoltaic Energy Producers (SPEF)

The Hellenic Association of Photovoltaic Energy Producers (SPEF) has complained to the Commission's Directorate-General for Competition about the Variable Cost Recovery Mechanism (VCRM), on the grounds that it operates unilaterally for the benefit of electricity produced from natural gas and maintains all such units in excess of the requirements of the Daily Electricity Auctions integrated into the system, even where there is no need for this, thereby taking the place of lignite units which cost up to half as much. It has also complained that the VCRM ensures a stable revenue 24 hours a day, equal to their variable cost plus a 10% margin, in defiance of any notion of competition between them on the basis of the competitive System Marginal Price. According to SPEF, this practice constitutes unlawful State aid, the result of which is an artificial deficit for the compensation account of RES, which have been driven to the brink of bankruptcy.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. How does it view the above complaint?
2. Does it intend to take any measures to address the situation?
3. If so, which measures?