

**Question for written answer E-009619/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Rebecca Harms (Verts/ALE)

Subject: EIB funding for the Ptolemaida V lignite power station in Greece

A lignite power station with a generating capacity of 660 megawatts, the Ptolemaida V, is currently being planned by the Greek Public Power Corporation. However, Greek environmentalists are expressing concern, at not only the adverse impact thereof on public health and the environment but also the long-term consequences, given that a new power station can be expected to operate for at least 40 years, thereby slowing down moves towards the increased use of energy from renewable sources, prolonging Greek dependence on fossil fuels and compromising efforts to achieve EU climate objectives (80-95% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050). Furthermore, the high investment costs and future emission levies are likely to increase the cost of electricity¹, causing considerable hardship for much of the population.

On 21 March 2012, Arthuros Zervos, the Public Power Corporation's CEO, presented the Ptolemaida financial plan to the Greek parliamentary committee for trade and production, intimating that 18% of funding would be provided by the European Investment Bank. The EIB, however, has indicated in response to enquiries that it has not yet received any such funding application, although it is aware of the project.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission know whether the EIB is currently engaged in initial inspections or consultations prior to a possible funding application for the Ptolemaida power station?
2. Will the Bank examine any such application or, on the contrary, reject it as incompatible with EU climate protection objectives?
3. Will the Commission seek to influence the initial assessment procedure in a bid to prevent EU climate objectives being compromised by EIB-funded projects?

¹ http://www.rae.gr/site/categories_new/about_rae/factsheets/general/11122012_2.csp (7.4.2013)