

**Question for written answer E-000073/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Lucas Hartong (NI)**

Subject: End of subsidies for onshore wind and solar power industries

On 2 January 2014, *The Telegraph*<sup>1</sup> published an article reporting on the Commission's view that 'the current level of state support for renewable energy sources must be phased out by the end of the decade.' Taxpayer subsidies for onshore wind and solar power industries should be cut, according to the Commission. European Commissioner Connie Hedegaard stated that 'the eventual aim was the end of state aid for wind power. "One of the things Europe has to do better is how we subsidise renewables [...] That is why the Commission is reviewing state aid guidelines for energy, including renewables. [...] If they can manage themselves why have state aid?"' In addition, last December the Commission granted millions of euros in subsidies from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund to the companies Vestas and FirstSolar for schemes to help redundant employees<sup>2</sup>. This raises the following questions:

1. Does the Commission intend to absolutely forbid state aid in the form of subsidies for onshore wind and solar power industries? Will this ban come into effect immediately? If not, why not?
2. Why does the Commission wish to stop the aforementioned subsidies on the one hand, while on the other hand subsidies are being given to companies in this sector which are forced to make redundancies?
3. Can the Commission guarantee that, as a direct consequence of stopping the aforesaid subsidies, companies in this sector will also no longer receive aid from the Globalisation Adjustment Fund, since any bankruptcy would be the result not of globalisation but of the withdrawal of subsidies?
4. Is the Commission prepared to put an immediate stop to the subsidisation of these business sectors with taxpayers' money?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/renewableenergy/10548157/Europe-wants-to-block-UK-wind-farm-subsidies.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/nl/news-room/content/20131206IPR30023/html/EU-aid-worth-%E2%82%AC18.4-million-for-redundant-workers-in-Denmark-Finland-and-Germany>