

**Question for written answer E-004772/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Kriton Arsenis (S&D)

Subject: Sale of the PPC grid to hedge funds in breach of European legislation on energy security

The Public Power Corporation (PPC) has called for expressions of interest in the Independent Power Transmission Operator (ITSO SA). ITSO owns and manages the high voltage grid in Greece and is responsible for the operation, maintenance and development of the electricity transmission system. ITSO's investment programme for 2013 alone amounted to some EUR 119 million. The total budget for ITSO projects funded by the NSRF and the Greek State budget amounted to EUR 544 million.

The sale by the Greek State of the Greek electricity grid is contrary to the public interest. Moreover, under Article 57 of Regulation 1083/2006, the financing by European Funds of infrastructure investments may be retained 'only if it does not, within five years from **its** completion, undergo a substantial modification **which is caused by a change in the nature of ownership of an item of infrastructure**'. In view of the above, will the Commission say: is the change in the ownership of infrastructure financed by EU funds in conformity with Article 57 of Regulation 1083/2006?

The call for expressions of interest concerns the transfer of 66 % of ITSO's shares. Notwithstanding the technical criteria set for the pre-selection of bidders, it provides for the possibility that these shares may be bought even by an investor who has no experience in managing assets of this kind. This means that any hedge fund or off-shore fund may become the new owner.

Given that ITSO's ten-year programme to secure Greece's energy security includes investments to the tune of EUR 2.5 billion to link up Euboea, the Cyclades and Crete, will the Commission say: is the sale of ITSO to a fund that does not meet the technical criteria for bidders compatible with Directive 2005/89 on security of energy supply and Directive 2009/72 on the internal market in electricity?