

**Question for written answer E-012106/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE), Javier Nart (ALDE) and Juan Carlos Girauta Vidal (ALDE)

Subject: Royal Decree on Energy Self-Consumption in Spain

The draft Royal Decree on Energy Self-Consumption submitted in June 2015 by the Spanish Government entails a number of measures which would, in fact, seriously hinder self-consumption. In particular, the use of batteries or storage systems would be taxed, the right to benefit from regulated electricity tariffs would be taken away from anyone who chooses to install solar panels for self-consumption, and unused electricity generated by these solar panels would be returned to the grid without any form of compensation. These measures would make solar self-consumption more expensive than conventional electricity supplies.

According to Spanish Photovoltaic Union (UNEF) figures, which are yet to be confirmed, an individual wishing to lower his electricity consumption in this way would have to wait thirty years to see a return on his investment; an SME would have to wait eight years.

The Commission is in the process of drawing up a regulation to incentivise energy self-consumption. Does it believe the Spanish Government's plans are compatible with the new regulation?

Spain is among the Member States with the highest energy prices and worst energy poverty in the wake of the economic crisis. Does the Commission believe that the Royal Decree allows for consumer rights to be adapted to economic and social changes, in line with EU consumer protection policy?