

**Question for written answer E-008496/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Emmanuel Maurel (S&D) and Jean-Paul Denanot (S&D)

Subject: Formal notice issued to France on the awarding of hydropower concessions

The Commission has sent a letter of formal notice to France regarding the liberalisation of its hydropower concessions.

Given our concerns about guaranteeing the uniformity of electricity prices, the ability of major domestic operators to perform their public service tasks unhindered and the economy of the areas surrounding hydropower plants, we call on the Commission to carry out an impact assessment of the liberalisation of French hydropower concessions. The different scenarios proposed by the parties involved in this case must be examined in detail in the assessment: banning EDF from bidding for the new concession contracts, selling on equivalent production quotas to competing suppliers, etc.

In particular, we wonder whether the option proposed by the Commission (banning EDF from tendering) is compatible with EU and French rules on public contracts, which actually guarantee that the supplier offering the fairest rates and highest-quality service for consumers is chosen.

Given the threat that its letter of formal notice poses to one of the best electricity production and supply systems in Europe, can the Commission clarify its stance on the above points?