

**Question for written answer E-004885/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Projects of Common Interest

Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) are key infrastructure projects, particularly cross-border projects that link the energy systems of EU countries. They are intended to help the EU achieve its energy policy and climate objectives in accordance with the Paris Agreement. Electricity infrastructure projects, in particular, are meant to allow for the integration of renewable energy and its transportation over long distances.

However, in a decision of 19 June 2018 on the exemption request for the AQUIND Interconnector, the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) ruled that PCIs are not eligible for an exemption from certain aspects of EU legislation (permitted for private projects under Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 714/2009), if the PCI status is awarded before an exemption decision has been taken. Such an interpretation undermines the PCI concept, and is likely to push private developers to avoid engaging in the PCI process in order to escape from being forced down a regulatory pathway.

Does the Commission find ACER's ruling to be in breach of Regulation (EC) No 714/2009 and Regulation (EU) No 347/2013?

What is the Commission planning to do to ensure the proper interpretation and enforcement of its cross-border infrastructure legislation?

Should the EU regulations establishing the agencies include a mechanism to ensure they correctly uphold EU legislation?