

**Question for written answer E-002139/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Lars Patrick Berg** (ID)

**Subject:** Feed-in payments under the German Renewable Energy Act (Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz — EEG) for wind-generated electricity in Germany as a breach of EU State aid and competition law

The electricity feed-in model under the EEG grants wind electricity generators a fixed payment for each kilowatt hour fed into the grid for a guaranteed duration of 20 years after the entry into operation of a wind farm. These payments are financed by electricity customers (private households, businesses) through compulsory EEG-surcharges, which are included in suppliers' electricity bills. At the same time, energy-intensive businesses benefit from generous exemptions from the payment of such EEG-surcharges. As it stands, the EEG model used in Germany falls within the scope of certain provisions of EU state aid and competitions law.

1. To what extent does the unilateral exemption of energy intensive undertakings from paying the EEG surcharge constitute an infringement of EU competition law?
2. Is the Commission aware of the level of subsidies to energy intensive undertakings represented by the non-imposition of the EEG surcharge in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and does it intend to initiate an investigation into state aid in this connection?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of the feed-in payments — also guaranteed to wind turbine operators under the EEG for electricity generated but not fed into the grid owing to overproduction (= oversupply of renewable electricity) and lack of demand, wind or solar electricity which is therefore lost owing to lack of storage facilities — which customers are required to pay in the form of EEG surcharges as part of the electricity bills issued by electricity suppliers?