

**Question for written answer E-006116/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jean-Lin Lacapelle (ID)

Subject: Defending Europe's strategic hydrogen-production sector

Developing hydrogen as an alternative energy source to fossil fuels is a crucial ecological and industrial challenge in ensuring the future of Europeans.

The European Union must serve to underpin cooperation between countries on joint projects. The Commission's announcement of the establishment of a 'European hydrogen alliance' is therefore excellent news, but it may unfortunately prove insufficient to ensure European autonomy in this area.

Three hydrogen electrolysis technologies are currently being researched:

proton exchange membrane (PEM) or solid oxide electrolyzers – the preferred methods for European companies, which offer higher quality but with uncompetitive production costs, and whose potential will only be realised in a matter of decades –

Alkaline electrolyzers, favoured by China, are capable of producing for USD 200/kW, 80% cheaper than European companies.

The challenge thus entails protecting this sector of European excellence from low-cost competition for enough time to enable it to become viable. Can the Commission therefore say:

1. Whether it intends to impose strict import limits on competing electrolyzers that would saturate the market and kill off European producers?
2. Whether it is willing to consider that the strategic importance of PEM electrolyzers justifies increased support for this sector?