

**Question for written answer E-000195/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Relevance of delegating the public electricity generation service to the private sector
(Project Hercules)

Project Hercules, which the French Government intends to implement under pressure from the Commission, will lead to the energy company EDF and all that remains of France's public energy service being dismantled. The goal driving this project forward is that of making the electricity system competitive. This is, however, impossible since the technical and economic specifications of both the generation system and the grid make them into a natural monopoly. Terms for financing have a very important role in determining what it costs to generate electricity and public bodies can obtain much more advantageous terms than private parties. Privatisation will therefore lead to a significant rise in electricity costs for consumers, as is demonstrated in the latest study by the European Public Service Union¹.

That being so, why does the Commission believe it appropriate to ask France to delegate to private parties, via invitations to tender, the public service generating renewable energy?

¹ EPSU (2019) 'The failure of energy liberalisation' <https://www.epsu.org/article/going-public-decarbonised-affordable-and-democratic-energy-system-europe-new-epsu-report>.