

**Question for written answer E-000196/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Manuel Bompard (The Left), **Manon Aubry** (The Left), **Leila Chaibi** (The Left), **Emmanuel Maurel** (The Left), **Younous Omarjee** (The Left), **Anne-Sophie Pelletier** (The Left)

Subject: Possibility that France could set up an SGEI for the whole of the electricity system and thus drop 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. This is a ridiculous and incomprehensible project. In fact, all the studies conducted, including one by the European Public Service Union, show that liberalisation of the energy sector has been a failure in every respect, including in its officially published and pursued goals¹. This study demonstrates that only a public energy service is capable of supplying affordable renewable energy. Energy is an absolutely essential common good, and past experience of how networks function proves that each component in the system – i.e. each line in the network, each means of production – is essential to ensuring its constant steady functioning.

1. Would the Commission, therefore, be prepared to consider the whole of the electricity system as a service of general economic interest (SGEI)?
2. Would it agree to France establishing indirect quasi-state control over the whole of the electricity sector in order to manage this SGEI?

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>.