Question for written answer E-001890/2021 to the Commission
Rule 138
Nicolás González Casares (S&D), Adriana Maldonado López (S&D), Lina Gálvez Muñoz (S&D), Alicia Homs Ginel (S&D)

Subject: Energy consumption of blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin

Blockchain technology is opening up new possibilities for transparency and decentralised governance in the digitalisation of our economy. One example is cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin. Some estimates, however, such as those of Cambridge University’s Cambridge Bitcoin Electricity Consumption Index (CBECI)\(^1\), warn of its high energy consumption. The CBECI indicates that Bitcoin may already account for more than 0.6% of the world’s electricity demand, a figure comparable to that of a country like Sweden.

Considering the objectives of the European Green Deal and the communication entitled ‘Shaping Europe’s Digital Future’ (COM(2020)0067), in which it is stated that ‘Europe must now lead in the adoption and standardisation process’ of this generation of technology,

1. Does the Commission have data and projections on the energy and greenhouse gas impacts of blockchain and Bitcoin on the EU and throughout the world?

2. Is the Commission examining measures to avoid any negative externalities of this technology, such as high energy consumption?

---

\(^1\) https://cbeci.org/