

**Question for written answer E-005040/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The impact of revolving doors on energy prices

Soaring energy prices have prompted some Member State governments to consider changing regulations affecting energy companies.

Recently, the Minister for the Ecological Transition of Spain has relaxed pressure on energy companies and softened plans to cut the profits of those that ‘supply reasonable prices for industry’¹.

Strong links between governments and energy companies, through revolving doors and conflicts of interest, are a worrying phenomenon across the EU, and are particularly pervasive in Spain².

These links are an obstacle to fair competition and to the development of effective climate change policies. The EU, along with Canada and the former Trump administration, refused to address the issue of conflicts of interest in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)³⁴.

1. Does the Commission intend to develop common guidelines to prevent conflicts of interest and revolving doors in the energy sector?
2. Will it change its position on dealing with conflicts of interest in the UNFCCC?

¹ <https://elpais.com/economia/2021-10-14/el-gobierno-alivia-el-recorte-a-las-electricas-que-ofrezcan-precios-razonables-a-la-industria.html>

² <https://www.greens-efa.eu/files/doc/docs/3d2ec57d6d6aa101bab92f4396c12198.pdf>

³ <https://climatenetwork.org/resource/can-positionconflicts-of-interest-and-polluting-industry-obstruction-of-climate-policy-in-the-unfccc-process-april-2020/>

⁴ <https://www.corporateaccountability.org/resources/eu-usa-australia-new-zealand-norway-stop-blocking-a-conflict-of-interest-policy-at-the-unfccc-kick-big-polluters-out/>