

**Question for written answer E-003103/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: State of play of salt batteries

Among the different electricity storage systems, sodium chloride is one of the most attractive (there are many operating plants built by start-ups and companies in the sector) but also least known to the public.

Using ordinary cooking salt as a reagent in the battery charging phase, this technology can generate up to 10 kWh per unit. The other benefits are that it is not toxic to humans, the materials are easier to find, it is long-lasting and requires zero maintenance. Although this type of battery still has some weaknesses in terms of its 'operational readiness' (when it runs out, it takes several hours to return to the operating temperature of around 300°C), it is still more efficient and more advantageous than conventional storage systems for installations that consume electricity at a constant and regular rate.

Given the above:

1. Where is this technology at on the European market?
2. Does the Commission believe that broader discussion need to be held with stakeholders to encourage the roll-out of this technology and investment in research and development, also to overcome operational issues mentioned above?
3. Will it earmark specific funding for salt battery research to bring down costs and make them more affordable for citizens?

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