

**Question for written answer E-000053/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Charlie Weimers (ECR)

Subject: Is EUR 17 billion for a battery-based electricity storage scheme optimal use of EU taxpayers' money?

As part of the European Green Deal and 'Fit for 55' objectives the Commission has recently approved an EUR 17.7 billion EU-funded centralised electricity storage system in Italy. The system is primarily battery-based and will have a capacity of over 71 GWh.¹ However, considering the massive investment and technology developments in the energy field, the cost-effectiveness and strategic impact of this project warrant thorough scrutiny.

1. As the storage system's capacity represents only 0.022 % of Italy's annual energy consumption, can the Commission outline how this aligns with effective energy integration and grid stability, particularly when alternative strategies, such as scaling up energy production, would offer more substantial benefits?
2. How does the Commission justify this financial commitment to battery-based storage technology, especially when considering the limitations in storage duration and capacity and the impact on the ongoing lithium shortage.
3. Has the Commission carried out an independent impact assessment of this scheme?

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¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6758.