

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3518/05  
by Mechtild Rothe (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: European solar thermal technology platform

The European Parliament is currently discussing an own-initiative report on support for heating and cooling from renewable energy sources. One essential area, in addition to biomass and geothermal energy, will be solar heat.

The European solar thermal industry is currently preparing a European solar thermal technology platform (ESTTP). Against the background of this initiative and the five-point plan produced recently in response to rising oil prices, in which Commissioner Piebalgs declared that he would press strongly for an increase in solar energy research in the context of the FP7, is the Commission considering recognising the ESTTP as an important source of advice for research priorities in the energy section of the FP7 and providing explicit support for it?

If so, when can a decision be expected from the Commission?