

**Question for written answer P-000916/2013  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Nils Torvalds (ALDE)**

Subject: Production aid for electricity from renewable energy sources on the Åland Islands, Finland

The government of the Åland Islands, an autonomous region of Finland, has for a long time had in place a system with production aid to support renewable energy sources, mainly wind power, on the islands.

Many Member States have similar types of public aid systems to support the production of renewable energy, reflecting the fact that it is not economically sustainable without subsidies.

In order to grant such production aid, granting authorities need the approval of the Commission and DG COMP. On 5 September 2011, the government of the Åland Islands submitted to DG COMP notification of its plans to grant production aid. It is still waiting for the approval.

The number of the case in DG COMP's State Aid Notification Interactive (SANI) database is SA.33567 (2011/PN).

Following the publication of several newspaper articles on this issue, many people have contacted our office to ask why it has taken the European Union so long time to decide on what, in their eyes, is a simple matter. They think that a year and a half is an unreasonably long time to wait, and I tend to agree. If we are to overcome euroscepticism, we must deliver results from Brussels faster than this. This is especially true when it comes to green energy, which is also part of the Europe 2020 strategy and the focus of one of the Commission's flagship initiatives.

I would therefore like to know when the government of the Åland Islands will receive a reply, with a decision by the Commission and DG COMP, regarding the notification it submitted to the Commission on 5 September 2011.