

**Question for written answer P-006173/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Paul Rübzig (PPE)

Subject: Concession rules concerning direct lines for operators of small hydroelectric power plants

Questions are regularly asked about small hydroelectric power plants' entitlement to sell electricity directly to nearby customers. EU legislation provides for a legal entitlement to install and operate direct lines. In practice, however, it is not possible for a power plant operator to supply a customer via a direct line, as this is often seen to be in contravention of concession rules on electricity grids.

Under Directive 2009/72/EC, are electricity producers allowed to install direct lines in order to supply all eligible customers?

Does it matter whether the producer and the customer in receipt of the electricity are allied businesses? In other words, does the customer have to be either a subsidiary or an establishment operated by the producer?

Does Union legislation stand in the way of this at all?

How does the Commission assess this issue with regard to concessions for electricity grids? Are there any inconsistencies in Union legislation?

Is there anything preventing an existing concession in a service area from operating a direct line and supplying electricity to an eligible customer?

Is the operator of a power plant entitled to install and operate more than one direct line for the purposes of supplying customers if the electricity flows to them are clearly separated from a connection to the public grid which likewise exists?

Is it possible for a producer to supply a number of customers using a single direct line, that is to say, if a number of customers are connected to a single line rather than each customer having their own individual direct line?