

Question for written answer P-001545/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Zoltán Balczó (NI)

Subject: How can the leadership of the USA be called to account in future for the pledges made by President Obama at the COP21 conference?

The COP21 conference, at which commitments were entered into globally, is described as being of historic importance. One decisive set of elements in these important commitments is the USA, the pledges made by President Obama and their fulfilment. If a new presidential administration takes office, at what level can it be held to these pledges?

The judges performing the role of a constitutional court in the USA have ruled by 5:4 in favour of those preponderantly Republican-governed States and big American businesses which lodged an application against President Obama's ambitious programme to prevent climate change. Under the Clean Power Plan, which is aimed at creating 'clean power stations', America's power stations would have to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions drastically by 2030 – by 32% in relation to the 2005 level. According to a brief statement by the judges, the implementation of the regulations is to be suspended until the legal proceedings have been completed. In view of this year's presidential elections and the Republican majority within the court, it is very likely that the proceedings will continue until the very end of January 2017, until the swearing-in of the new President, so it will probably be the new presidential administration that decides on the implementation of President Obama's programme, too.

- What guarantee does the Commissioner see that the USA will fulfil the pledges made by President Obama in Paris?