

**Priority question for written answer P-005445/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Radan Kanev (PPE)

Subject: Controversial draft amendment by the Bulgarian energy regulator to the electricity trading rules

The Bulgarian energy regulator has proposed a draft amendment to the Electricity Trading Rules. This eliminates the possibility of grouping together participants in standard and combined balancing groups, with joint financial settlement (Article 56c(6) (repealed) and Article 57(5) (new) of the Rules). There is concern among electricity producers, traders and consumers that this change contravenes EU law, and in particular Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity, that it runs counter to the EU's general policy of liberalising and decentralising the electricity market and that it will result in higher prices for consumers.

These concerns relate to a breach of Article 5 on the right of market participants to delegate responsibility for imbalances to a 'balance responsible party of their choice'.

My specific questions are:

1. Does the prohibition on grouping members of standard and combined balancing groups, with joint financial settlement, breach the provisions of EU law, and in particular Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943?
2. Does this prohibition conflict with the general principles of liberalisation of the energy market and promotion of renewable energies?
3. Is this prohibition liable to trigger an increase in electricity prices?