

**Question for written answer E-004210/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Proper implementation of the third energy package

In the framework of assessing the national reform and convergence programmes of certain Member States, the Commission has recently published working documents with recommendations inter alia for Poland (SWD(2013)0371) and Bulgaria (SWD(2013)0352). Specifically with regard to the implementation of the third energy package, the Commission notes that in Poland, limited competition among incumbent electricity suppliers, insufficient interconnections with other Member States and ageing energy generation capacity keep energy prices high. The main recommendations for Bulgaria include a transparent and objective selection procedure for the appointment of staff of the regulator SEWRC, improvement of the regulatory framework in terms of the implementation of the third energy package and progress in achieving the preconditions for the third package as regards the unbundling of TSO and the off-take obligations of the national electricity company NEK.

According to various media reports, several energy end suppliers have been threatened recently with losing their licences as public suppliers of electricity in Bulgaria. The initial background to this situation is an ongoing discussion among energy companies about a purchase commitment for renewable energies. Withdrawal of the licences seems disproportionate, may cause serious problems in the security of energy supply to citizens and does not appear to be in line with some of the Commission's recommendations on proper implementation of the third package.

Could the Commission please inform us of the following:

1. Whether any progress has been made concerning the recommendations of the Commission's reports in the above-mentioned Member States?
2. What measures have been taken to support the respective governments in tackling the problems?
3. If the ongoing international and national disputes (e.g. licence withdrawal proceedings for electricity supply companies) might be a hint that national efforts to stabilise the energy sector have been insufficient?
4. Whether the first announcement by the Bulgarian Government to withdraw licences contradicts the requested independence of the regulatory authority as laid down in the third package?
5. How the Commission will further monitor these developments and what enforcement measures are intended to fully implement the acquis communautaire in the countries in question?