

**Question for written answer E-015446/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Conflicts of interests involving Arias Cañete, Lamela and the company Berkeley

The company Berkeley was recently granted authorisation to run a uranium mine in Retortillo (Salamanca). In May 2015, the Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete, signed a positive opinion on the proposed project on behalf of the Commission. However, the area covered by the mine is crossed by the Yeltes River, a special area of conservation under Directive 92/43/EEC and the Natura 2000 network, and the Government of Portugal was denied the opportunity to carry out an assessment. According to the available information, Berkeley hired Manuel Lamela, who had worked as undersecretary to Miguel Arias Cañete in the Ministry of Agriculture, as its only lobbyist dealing with the Commission. Mr Lamela registered his personal office with the EU as a lobby on 26 December 2014, a month after Miguel Arias Cañete was appointed Energy Commissioner. Commissioner Cañete signed the positive opinion four months after Mr Lamela was recruited by Berkeley.

1. Is the Commission aware of this possible conflict of interest?
2. What action does the Commission intend to take on this matter?