

**Question for written answer E-015589/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Iratxe García Pérez (S&D), Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández (S&D), José Blanco López (S&D), Soledad Cabezón Ruiz (S&D) and Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D)

Subject: Opencast uranium mining authorised in Retortillo (Salamanca)

On 21 May 2015, the Commission approved plans by Berkeley Minera España to operate an opencast uranium mine in Retortillo (Salamanca), on the grounds that the project was in line with the objectives of the Euratom Treaty and the EU's energy strategy. This information was made public in Order No IET/1944/2015 of 17 September 2015 in which the Spanish Government's Secretary of State for Energy authorised the project.

There have been reports in the Spanish media recently that Mr Manuel Lamela, a former colleague of Mr Arias Cañete when the latter was Spain's Agriculture Minister, was recruited by Berkeley Minera España and entered in the EU lobbyist register in December 2014, just a few weeks after Mr Arias Cañete's appointment as Commissioner.

Could the Commission give details of the contacts Mr Lamela has had with Mr Arias Cañete's office in relation to this project's authorisation?