

**Question for written answer E-014472/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ska Keller (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Lignite in Europe

Lignite burning is one of the forms of power generation in the European Union that have the most damaging impact in terms of climate change, and lignite extraction causes severe long-term damage to the environment, vegetation and water resources in the areas concerned.

In the light of the above:

In which EU Member States and countries that are actual or potential candidates for EU membership is lignite currently being mined; in which has it been mined; and in which are there plans to mine it? Can the Commission please indicate, for each of the countries in question: the names of the areas concerned; whether the mining is underground or opencast; current production volumes, volumes already extracted and the extent of estimated economically-extractable reserves; and the historic, current and planned land-use requirement for lignite extraction?

Which EU Member States and countries that are actual or potential candidates for EU membership currently use, or plan to use, lignite for electricity production? Can the Commission please indicate, for each of the countries in question: the current and/or planned levels of such electricity production; and the current and/or expected levels of resultant emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other air pollutants (i.e. heavy metals such as quicksilver, particulate emissions and nitrogen oxides).