Question for written answer E-016051/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Georgios Epitideios (NI)

Subject: Preferential treatment of ALUMINIUM OF GREECE

In February 2009 ALUMINIUM OF GREECE stopped paying its electricity bills, so that by May 2010 its debts to the PPC exceeded EUR 130 million. Two months later, the PPC decided to perform a haircut on the company's debt, fix the new amount at a subsidised rate of interest and from then on to supply it at a favourable tariff. Thus the overdue debt to the PPC was reduced by EUR 25 million and it was agreed that the new amount of EUR 83.6 million should be repaid on favourable terms. More particularly, a EUR 20 million advance would be paid and the balance repaid in about 60 monthly instalments at Euribor monthly interest rates plus 1%. It should be noted that a new tariff was agreed different from that accorded to other industrial consumers, which was of course to the detriment of the PPC.

It should be noted that the company in question has its own electricity generating plant and is demanding to be supplied by the PPC at prices below cost and to sell the electricity thus produced, making excessive profits.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

a. How does it view the preferential treatment enjoyed by the company in question?

b. Since the above constitutes a violation of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, in particular the principle that similar rules should apply to all companies operating in a given local market, what steps will it take to remedy this situation?