

**Question for written answer E-015417/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Authorisation for an open-cast uranium mine (Retortillo, Salamanca)

On 21 May 2015, the Commission approved a project run by a company called Berkeley Minera España to set up an open-cast uranium mine in Retortillo (Salamanca), maintaining that the project was in line with the objectives of the Euratom Treaty and with the EU's energy strategy. This information was set out in an order (IET/1944/2015 of 17 September) authorising the project issued by the Secretary of State for Energy of the Spanish Government.

There have been reports in the Spanish media that Manuel Lamela, who worked alongside Mr Arias Cañete when he was Spain's agriculture minister, was recruited by Berkeley Minera España and entered in the EU lobbyists' register in December 2014, a few weeks after Mr Arias Cañete was appointed Commissioner.

1. Could the Commission state the reasons why DG Energy delivered a favourable opinion on Berkeley's project to set up a uranium mine in Retortillo?
2. Could the Commission supply the timetable drawn up for the authorisation of the project, in particular the dates of the application, the assessment phase and the adoption of the positive opinion?