

**Question for written answer E-003510/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Promotion of energy communities in sparsely populated rural areas

The three large autonomous communities in the Spanish hinterland are those hardest hit by unsuitable and high-impact deployment of renewable energy. At the end of 2024, Castilla y León had 7 300 MW installed, Aragón 5 700 MW and Castilla-La Mancha 5 100 MW, representing 57 % of Spain's 32 000 MW of wind energy capacity. The wind farms cover an area measuring 256 000 km² (51 % of the total) that is home to 6.8 million residents (14 % of the Spanish population). The same three autonomous communities also had more than 13 000 MW of installed photovoltaic capacity. Virtually all the renewable energy in these territories is controlled by large companies, many of which are financed by public money from the EU and Spain. In 2024, the total number of energy communities installed in Spain was less than 400, with fewer than 75 in Aragón, Castilla-La Mancha and Castilla y León. The installed capacity from renewable energy in energy communities makes up less than 1 % of the total.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission not consider that rural energy communities urgently need to be promoted and financed in order to provide energy sovereignty and self-consumption in rural regions such as Aragón, Castilla-La Mancha and Castilla y León?
2. Does the Commission not believe that energy communities will strengthen rural communities and be effective in curbing depopulation?

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