

Question for written answer E-004811/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: The misuse of capacity mechanisms by Member States

The Electricity Regulation¹ establishes criteria for the introduction and operation of capacity markets. Before introducing schemes, countries must conduct and publish national adequacy assessments to identify potential system gaps, and consider a strategic reserve first, as a more cost-effective approach. If capacity mechanisms are still needed, they must adhere to strict conditions: proportionality and technology neutrality.

Despite these requirements, various EU countries are misapplying capacity mechanisms. In Poland, an auction held in July 2025 effectively excluded clean flexibility via a derating factor that strongly favoured gas plants, contradicting the technology neutrality criteria².

ENTSO-E data showed that the national thermal capacity needs of Greece would not exceed 6 GW³. Yet, the government is planning a capacity market to tender an additional 5.5 GW of liquified natural gas-fired plants.

In 2024 the German Government announced a plan to create a capacity market while advancing plans to tender 12.5 GW of gas plants⁴. These steps were taken without first publishing a resource adequacy assessment and without respecting technological neutrality.

Such examples point to a broader pattern of misuse that could raise consumer energy bills by favouring selected companies, technologies, or national strategies. Is the Commission aware of this systemic issue, and does it plan to provide clearer legal guidance to ensure capacity mechanisms are applied correctly and prevent further abuses?

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¹ Electricity Regulation 2019/943, Articles 20-24.

² See: <https://www.parkiet.com/energetyka/art42157461-blizej-nowych-aukcji-rynku-mocy-dla-elektrowni-gazowych>.

³ Analysis by The Green Tank based on ENTSO-E data: <https://thegreentank.gr/en/2024/09/10/thermal-capacity-report/>

⁴ 12.5GW consisting of 5GW unabated gas plants, 5GW of hydrogen-ready gas plants, 2.5GW hydrogen-sprinter and batteries.