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## Green electricity

### Shocking decision: Commission attacks the aids for green electricity

This **pending case** between the Commission and Luxembourg is **running contrary to the EU's objective of promoting electricity from renewable energy**. In a 2001 directive the EU set itself a target to increase the share of electricity produced from renewables to 21% by 2010. However, **the EU member states remain free to choose their preferred system to support green electricity**, so to use feed-in tariffs.

In July this year, the Commission delivered a ruling which said that feed-in tariffs in Austria had to be assimilated to state aid. But it **stated also that the scheme was in compliance with the EU directive on the promotion of green electricity and authorised it**.

To this case, **Claude Turmes, Green MEP from Luxembourg**, declared:

*"There are **internal disputes at the Commission over what kind of support scheme Brussels should publicly endorse**. The dispute pits the competition and enterprise directorates against environment and energy. It is also a political manoeuvre: **if the Luxembourg feed-in pricing system collapses, the German one will follow**. In Germany, power utilities do not like the feed-in tariff system because **it allows many new companies to enter the market**. It is equal to 6% loss of market share representing millions of euros of business. DG Competition is wasting its time attacking 5% of the market share."*

This shocking decision was also denounced by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) which released a resolution to protest at the Commission's action.

A decision on the Luxembourg state aid case is expected in the coming months.

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Claude Turmes

Member

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