



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

# Letters

## Commissioner will require resolve to avoid a fruitless quest

By Simon Moore

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From Mr Simon Moore.

Sir, While the European Commission's latest initiative to liberalise energy markets is undoubtedly welcome, one cannot help but feel we have been here before ("Brussels plans to break grip of energy groups", January 11).

It is more than 10 years since the first Commission directive on internal markets for energy, but all we have witnessed in that period is the growing divide between theoretical and actual liberalisation. State-owned energy monopolies are too lucrative, and union influence is too electorally powerful in much of the remainder of the European Union for national governments to back down from the fight.

Neelie Kroes, the EU competition commissioner, will need to show considerable resolve to keep this from being another quixotic, and ultimately fruitless, quest. Good luck to her.

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