

**Question for written answer E-008428/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)**

**Subject:** Suspension of the Catalan Regional Government's energy poverty measures

The Spanish Government submitted an appeal to the Constitutional Court against Decree Law No 6/2013, amending Law No 20/2010 of the Consumer Code of Catalonia. On 22 October 2014 the appeal was accepted for legal proceedings and the law was consequently suspended.

The aim of the decree, known as the 'Energy poverty decree', was to transpose and adapt the notion of vulnerable consumers, established in Directive 2009/72/EC concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity, into Spanish law. In view of the economic and social crisis in southern Europe, it is vital that minimum criteria be laid down to give a specific definition of vulnerable customers.

In its Consumer Agenda (2012), the Commission states that the current economic context 'may exacerbate the disadvantaged situation of vulnerable consumers'. In addition, its eighth objective is defined as 'supporting consumer interests in key sectors'.

1. Does the Commission intend to express its view on the suspension of a decree that was designed to implement EU directives on energy consumption?
2. Does it agree that steps need to be taken to safeguard access to basic services given that a section of the population is living in poverty?
3. What steps does it intend to take to further the objectives laid down in the Consumer Agenda?