

**Question for written answer E-008670/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Combating energy poverty in the EU

Electricity bills in Spain are the highest in the EU. Last quarter they rose by 11 %. Only in Spain will seven million people spend the winter restricting their use of electricity and/or gas and fearing they will be cut off. Temperatures in Spain, as in other Member States too, are about to drop, making this an emergency situation.

While the big energy companies watch their profits rise, many people have problems paying their electricity bill which, in many cases, accounts for more than 10 % of their income.

There being no national measures to help, solutions have been imposed at EU level. These include: a social tariff based on income, a basic power or consumption level to cover household needs, safeguards against supplies being cut in winter because of unpaid bills, and welfare measures of other kinds.

1. What solutions is the Commission adopting or planning to adopt to tackle energy poverty in the EU?
2. Does it consider that regulations in existence in the Member States, and in Spain in particular, safeguard people's energy rights and their human dignity as upheld by Article 1 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union?