

**Question for written answer E-009429/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Violation of Directive 2008/50/EC due to an increase in the price of heating oil in Greece

The tough adjustment programme being implemented in Greece has led to an exorbitant increase in the price of heating oil (it is taxed at the same rate as diesel fuel).

Citizens are forced to use other means of heating, leading to a massive surge in smog, which is having devastating consequences for public health, and the phenomenon of smog is an ongoing violation of Directive 2008/50/EC. In his answer to Written Question (E-000618/13.03.2014), Mr Rehn stated that '... The Commission is not aware of any study which establishes causality between the surge in pollution and the taxation of heating oil or the impact of the adjustment programme.....'

I would refer the Commission to a study 'PM ATTRIBUTED MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY DUE TO BIOMASS USE IN THESSALONIKI - ESTIMATION OF SOCIOECONOMIC COST', published at the 9th international conference on 'Air Quality - Science and Application' held in Germany on 24 March 2014, which drew incontrovertible conclusions about the scale of the problem, the toxicity of the smog and its effects on public health. It is incumbent upon the Commission to review its answer in the light of this study.

Given the above, but also the Commission's findings about the unexpectedly low revenue yield of the measure in question (answer to QE-006712/2014), what specific initiatives will it take to reduce the cost to consumers of using heating oil in order at least to avoid further exacerbating the consequences of pollution which are already devastating?