

**Question for written answer E-000341/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Recognition of persons with disabilities as vulnerable electricity consumers

As a continuation to my questions E-007986/2014 and E-008670/2014 in favour of vulnerable electricity consumers as contemplated in Directive 2009/72/EC, which establishes the obligation for Member States to develop 'national action plans' to combat energy poverty, I echo the demands of the Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities (CERMI) to include persons with disabilities and their families in the category of vulnerable electricity consumers.

CERMI considers that persons with disabilities are more likely to suffer the effects of energy poverty due to the fact that their income level is lower than average and because they consume more energy due to their use of products to support their independence and health, added to the fact that they spend more time in their homes, thus increasing their average electricity consumption. This occurs in a context in which, despite the increase in electricity prices and the serious unemployment situation in Spain, the number of beneficiaries of the *bono social* [income-based rate subsidy] for electricity has fallen by over 200 000 in two years.

Does the Commission intend to amend this Directive to include persons with disabilities in the category of vulnerable electricity consumers?