

**Question for written answer E-000356/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ramón Jáuregui Atondo (S&D)

Subject: Protecting vulnerable customers in the energy union

The acute and long-lasting socioeconomic crisis, and the ensuing rise in electricity prices, have led to an increase in the percentage of EU citizens living in energy poverty. The rise has been particularly sharp among those known as 'vulnerable customers', and even more so among people with disabilities.

Some groups involved in defending the rights of people with disabilities claim that urgent action is needed to reform the current EU legislation concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity (Directive 2009/72/EC) so as to include a reference to people with disabilities and their families under the category of vulnerable electricity customers, thus enabling them to benefit directly from the measures adopted by the Member States. Does the Commission intend to make any such changes?

Secondly, one of the priorities of the new Juncker Commission is to set up an energy union in order to guarantee security of energy supply, continue to integrate national energy markets, boost customer participation and increase energy efficiency.

How does the Commission intend to ensure that the most vulnerable customers are protected, and how does it plan to make progress in the fight against energy poverty?