

**Question for written answer E-002108/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)

Subject: Book-keeping rules for investment in energy efficiency

The European Union has adopted energy efficiency as an objective to pursue. The Energy Union package, which is to be presented on 25 February 2015, illustrates this. Regrettably, European energy investment policy lacks coherence and makes investment unnecessarily costly.

Investment in energy efficiency is expensive. For that reason, private funding is enlisted to make projects possible. This is done, inter alia, by using energy performance contracts (EPCs). By means of an EPC, an external organisation (an ESCO – energy service company) can initiate a project to improve energy efficiency and subsequently recoup the initial investment in the first year by means of the saving on costs generated by lower energy costs in the year thereafter.

However, European budgetary rules stipulate that such a contract must be included in the budget for the first year, at the time when the contract is signed. Yet such investment is, by its nature, often a long-term undertaking. This means that heavy costs are incurred in the first year, because they cannot be spread, making the ESCO system very unattractive.

1. Is the Commission aware of this problem?
2. Is the Commission considering making it more attractive to invest in energy efficiency by correcting this system?