

**Question for written answer E-011493/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Filiz Hyusmenova (ALDE)

Subject: Energy poverty

According to EUROSTAT, more than 40 % of the total population of Bulgaria are unable to keep their homes sufficiently warm. This is due to factors such as low incomes and poor energy efficiency of buildings, on the one hand, and the lack of diversity of players on the energy market, leading to high energy prices, on the other. In addition, access to alternative energy options is still rather underdeveloped and faces barriers to development, leaving the majority of Bulgarian households with no viable alternative to the use of electricity for heating.

What kind of concrete structural measures is the Commission envisaging in order to fight the bottlenecks and provide for an entirely European energy market in order to decrease energy prices and ensure a variety of choices for consumers, especially in countries with severe winter conditions and high levels of energy poverty, such as Bulgaria?