

**Question for written answer E-013770/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE) and Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Suspension of energy poverty measures and mortgage foreclosures

On 5 October 2015, Parliament held a debate on the application of European legislation on consumer protection in Spain. The overall conclusion of the debate was to note that citizens affected by malpractice involving preference shares and mortgage foreclosures are suffering severe social hardship, and Spanish governments have failed to comply fully with European legislation in this field.

On 7 October 2015, the Spanish Constitutional Court agreed to hear the appeals brought by the government's Legal Service against the Law on the Consumer Code of Catalonia. That law included consumer protection measures designed chiefly to offset energy poverty and curb the increase in mortgage foreclosures. It also opened up the possibility of seeking a solution for people with mortgages and no means of making repayments without involving the courts, with the aim of making the process more flexible.

- What is the Commission's agenda on energy poverty?
- Will the Commission take action in response to Spain's failure to comply with Directive 93/13/EEC on unfair terms in consumer contracts?
- Will the Commission urge Member States to work on laws designed to reduce the number of mortgage foreclosures and cases of consumers having their gas and electricity cut off?