

**Question for written answer E-000827/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Notis Marias (ECR)**

Subject: Memorandum policies, energy poverty and smog in Greece

Very high concentrations of suspended particulate matter (smog) are being recorded in Athens and other cities, especially in northern Greece, as a result of unsuitable fuels being used for domestic heating purposes, thereby creating a major public health hazard. Basically the problem is one of energy poverty and, despite the close attention being given to the matter by the EU (in the form of TFEU provisions, directives, and targeted air quality strategies), smog levels in Greece have increased massively from the winter of 2011 onwards. This has been caused by the memorandum policies' imposed by the Troika, including increased excise duties and VAT on heating oil, electricity and natural gas in Greece.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission accept that there is a connection between more frequent occurrences of smog in Greece and Troika-imposed policies?
2. Can it give an overview of the smog risk and resulting damage in terms of public health and what countermeasures will it take?
3. Will it recommend to the Troika a reduction in excise duty and VAT in heating oil, electricity and natural gas?