

Question for written answer E-001827/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Energy poverty and taxes on electricity

A recent survey by the European Parliament on energy poverty estimates the percentage of energy poverty in Greece to be 36% despite the social price policy for electricity. Ten thousand households are at of risk going without electricity or are already there.

68% of the respondents in Greece to a survey by the Commission answered that they are facing partial or total difficulty in paying their electricity bills.

Greek citizens are unable to pay their electricity bills mainly because of the extortionate taxes. In particular, municipal fees, municipal taxes, real estate tax, excise duty and the 5‰ special levy are collected through electricity bills in breach of EU law, while the VAT rate on electricity is 13%. Those taxes are totally unrelated to electricity production, transmission and distribution.

Could the Commission please state:

1. What stance will it adopt as a member of the troika should the Greek government decide, in accordance with Article 102 of Directive 2006/112/EC, to take steps towards reducing the VAT rate on electricity from 13% to 5%, as is the case in other EU Member States?
2. Does it propose to recommend that electricity bills should not include taxes to third parties, in order to relieve the most vulnerable households and fight energy poverty?