

Question for written answer E-008245/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Measures for the reduction of excise duty on heating oil and for tackling energy poverty in Greece

According to the Buildings Performance Institute Europe, the inability to maintain adequate heating in Greece concerns 70% of households, while the corresponding rate in the European Union amounts to 10.8%.

At the same time, according to the Hellenic Petroleum Marketing Companies Association, the total of the taxes imposed on heating oil in Greece corresponds to 51.1% of the retail price, while the average corresponding rate in the European Union is 32.1 %.

It should be noted that, despite the tax increase on heating oil in 2016, the heating allowance for households with low incomes will remain the same as in 2015. This fact, coupled with the increase in the retail price of oil by 20% compared to April 2016, is expected to aggravate the inability to heat the homes.

As recognised by the Commission in the answer to our Question E-000827/2016, Greece can reduce the tax rates applicable to heating oil.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission, as a member of the troika, prepared to accept reductions in the above tax rates?
2. What additional measures does the Commission intend to propose to address energy poverty in Greece and particularly the inability to heat homes?