

Question for written answer E-008344/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Energy situation in Europe

It was reported on 27 October 2016 that the Spanish Supreme Court was going to repeal the 'bono social', a special tariff that entitled some groups classified as vulnerable to a 25 % discount on electricity bills. The Court also ordered that compensation be paid to the electricity companies, which have made a profit of over EUR 56 million since the start of the crisis, while electricity bills have risen by around 52 %. Bearing in mind that the Gini coefficient rose in Spain from 31 in 2003 to almost 34 in 2013, that the Supreme Court ruling follows the Constitutional Court's suspension of Catalonia's plan to combat energy poverty, and cites current EU legislation as justification:

Is the Commission considering using its remit to draw up a communication on combating energy poverty in Europe?

In view of the fact that a European Parliament report states that 'Spain urgently needs a fuel poverty strategy', will the Commission consider including a uniform definition in the energy union strategy?

Does the Commission plan to review the EU's third energy package in order to include social clauses?