

**Question for written answer E-008801/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Xabier Benito Ziluaga (GUE/NGL), Miguel Urbán Crespo (GUE/NGL), Estefanía Torres Martínez (GUE/NGL) and Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Energy poverty and breach of Directive 2009/72/EC

In Spain, 5.1 million people suffer from energy poverty. In 2015, Endesa and Iberdrola cut off the supplies of 506 481 households for non-payment. According to the Environmental Sciences Association, more people die each year (approximately 7 100) from a lack of supplies than from traffic accidents.

With regard to energy poverty, Article 3(7) of Directive 2009/72/EC stipulates that 'each Member State shall define the concept of vulnerable customers which may refer to energy poverty and, inter alia, to the prohibition of disconnection of electricity to such customers in critical times. Member States shall ensure that rights and obligations linked to vulnerable customers are applied'.

Therefore, in view of this dramatic situation and despite the Community legal framework, the Spanish Government is not taking sufficient measures.

1. Does the Commission not agree that by failing to act, the Spanish Government could be in breach of Directive 2009/72/EC?
2. What measures will the Commission take to ensure that the Spanish Government prohibits the disconnection of electricity in winter?