

**Question for written answer E-002351/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: The sale of PPC lignite plants in Florina and Megalopolis

Using urgent proceedings, the governing majority adopted the SYRIZA-ANEL government's bill on the sale of PPC lignite plants in Florina and Megalopolis on 25 April 2017, following the privatisation plans prepared by the previous New Democracy and PASOK governments. The bill has been met with universal reaction and strong protest on the part of employees. It is meant to implement the government-EU agreement, and is aligned with EU policy for further 'liberalisation' and commercialisation of the energy sector to provide a guaranteed profitable avenue for the accumulated funds of monopolistic groups. Ordinary families have already paid a high price for this liberalisation, as electricity prices have increased by 157% since 2000, while 30% of the population live in energy poverty. The government's law is leading to new price rises for common people, layoffs and worse labour relations in the industry, and it benefits only investors and industrialists.

What is the Commission's position on the fact that, given the EU's and its governments' policy, based on Eurostat data there have been no Member States since 2010¹ (Greece included) in which the liberalisation and commercialisation of the energy sector has benefited the common people and led to lower energy prices for ordinary families?

¹ [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=File:Development_of_electricity_prices_for_household_consumers,_EU-28,_2008-2016_\(EUR_per_kWh\)_YB17.png](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=File:Development_of_electricity_prices_for_household_consumers,_EU-28,_2008-2016_(EUR_per_kWh)_YB17.png)