

Question for written answer E-005314/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Measures to reduce excise duty on heating oil and tackle energy poverty in Greece

Greek households that have become poorer as a result of the implementation of the Memoranda have a tough winter ahead of them, as the cost of heating oil has risen steeply, reaching EUR 1.2/litre, compared to EUR 0.94 last year. By way of illustration, in 2017, EUR 300 would buy 315 litres of heating oil, while this winter the same amount of money will only buy 255 litres.

Given that 48% of Greek citizens live below the poverty line, and in light of the fact that fewer citizens may now benefit from the heating oil allowance, there is a need to adopt measures to reduce energy poverty.

In view of the increase by 35% in the price of heating oil internationally, and so that Greek households may be able to purchase cheaper heating oil, the excise duty on heating oil must be reduced to the 2011 levels, i.e. to EUR 60/tonne, as proposed by the Panhellenic Federation of Fuel Station Owners and Oil Traders.

The Commission, in its answer to our Question E-000827/2016, recognises that Greece can reduce the tax rates applicable to heating oil.

Can the Commission say:

1. Is it willing, in the context of the enhanced surveillance to which Greece is subject, to agree to the reduction of the aforementioned tax rates?
2. What measures does it intend to adopt to reduce energy poverty in Greece and specifically the inability of citizens to heat their homes?