

**Question for written answer P-003174/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miltiadis Kyrkos (S&D)

Subject: Exorbitant electricity tariffs

With regard to the significant hike in PPC tariffs for Greek consumers at the end of the winter period, it has been noted that this is largely due to excessive Services of General Interest (SGI) charges which are passed on to electricity tariffs as indirect taxation. This means, essentially, that consumers are being asked to foot the bill for social policies.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Is it aware that these excessive increases are mainly due to distortions in pricing by SGIs (tiered tariffs and drastically increased prices for each kilowatt hour above the consumption threshold for transition to the next scale)?
2. Can these SGI charges be passed on to consumers as an indirect tax through PPC tariffs or should they be financed by the state budget?
3. Does it consider that the project to interconnect the Aegean islands - at least the large islands of Crete and Rhodes - with the mainland, while at the same time phasing out obsolete and heavily polluting oil-fired stations (Commission Decision 536/2014), would have a positive impact on tariffs for Greek consumers, since this would bring about a large reduction in the SGI charges which currently amount to EUR 800 million a year? How does it view the huge delays that have occurred – and are continuing today – in implementing these interconnections?