

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4095/00

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to the Commission

Subject: Towards recognition of a 'right to energy'

Access to energy is seen as a legitimate aspiration by all human beings.

Access to energy often represents the gateway to education, health and long life, and energy has become as vital as air or water.

The EU has essential responsibilities in this connection, as it lays down the legal rules governing the internal market in goods and services, including energy, and promotes solidarity and development through the structural funds. It plays a role at the international level, as embodied in the major development programmes MEDA, PHARE and TACIS and in negotiations with ACP countries and EU representation in trade and environmental negotiations from Seattle to The Hague.

How does the Commission intend to take account in its legislative initiatives and its programming of a 'right to energy', i.e. ensure equality of access for everyone to at least one source of energy whilst contributing towards harmonious, equitable and environmentally-compatible development? And how can it encourage international recognition of this 'right to energy' as a human right?