

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4346/08
by Sahra Wagenknecht (GUE/NGL)
to the Council

Subject: Introduction of social tariffs for energy in Europe

Rising energy prices are putting great pressure on the lowest income sections of the population in particular. In order to cushion the social effects of this development, Commission President Barroso has called on Member States to consider introducing social tariffs for basic energy requirements.

1. What is the Council's view of the call to introduce social tariffs for energy provision?
2. What action has the Council so far taken to encourage energy companies in Member States to introduce social tariffs?
3. Does the Council think that basic energy provision is a fundamental social right? If so, what instruments can be used to implement this fundamental right in Member States?
4. Can the Council identify any best practices or exemplary instances which can guide Member States when introducing social tariffs for energy?