

**Question for written answer E-007479/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Pat the Cope Gallagher (ALDE) and Brian Crowley (ALDE)

Subject: Proposed reform of Directive 2003/96/EC (Energy Taxation Directive)

The reform of Directive 2003/96/EC (Energy Taxation Directive) adopts a minimum taxation level on all fuel. This will lead to a rise in the price of natural gas, which in turn will directly impact upon lower-income families who rely on natural gas. Can the Commission please outline the appropriate safeguards to be put in place to protect this vulnerable sector of society?

The reform of the Directive would also interfere with Ireland's existing carbon taxation regime. Could the Commission outline the safeguards to be implemented to ensure that the principle of subsidiarity is not interfered with?