

**Question for written answer E-008655/2011  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Edward Scicluna (S&D)**

Subject: Energy credit coupons

The Maltese media has reported, with supporting evidence, that energy credit coupons given to families on social support are not being honoured unless the individuals in question pay their utility bills immediately and in full. Families who can only afford to pay their bills with staggered payments are denied this assistance. Does the Commission agree that this is contrary to the spirit if not the text of Directive 2009/72/EC and its provisions on consumer protection?