

**Question for written answer E-008286/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Brian Crowley (ALDE)**

Subject: Protecting vulnerable consumers from initial price fluctuation

The 'Internal Energy Market' for Europe hopes to integrate the 28 differing energy markets of the EU along with neighbouring 'third countries' by the year 2020. Two core elements of this proposal are the protection of consumer rights and the protection of vulnerable consumers.

One potential problem facing this proposal is the varied income levels throughout Europe.

What are the Commission's objectives with regard to the protection of consumers during this period of implementation and integration and how does it aim to achieve these objectives?

Could the Commission outline its proposals for easing this transaction for vulnerable consumers during the period of price fluctuation?