

Question for written answer E-004352/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Rosanna Conte (ID)

Subject: Energy poverty in Europe and support for families following the COVID-19 pandemic

The month-long lockdown triggered by the pandemic and the ongoing spread of telework have led to an increase in household energy consumption. In fact, the residential sector accounts for 27 % of final energy consumption. The Member States have introduced a range of exceptional measures, yet when these end, many families will still be struggling to make ends meet.

Official EU estimates suggest that 10 % of the population lives in energy poverty. Those affected are more vulnerable to respiratory diseases and mental health issues, thus widening inequalities and exacerbating health risks.

Currently, only 1 % of buildings in the EU are renovated each year. Aside from more affordable energy costs, we also need major investment and incentives in the housing sector.

In order to safeguard the right to energy and in view of the Renovation Wave initiative, does the Commission intend:

to establish a stable financial and legislative framework for energy investments in all Member States?

to facilitate access to credit for private individuals by means of advances and guarantees to finance projects designed to improve homes' energy efficiency and cut residential CO₂ emissions?

to guarantee flexibility in the use of funds so that Member States are able to relieve struggling families of some of the burden of energy costs?