

Question for written answer E-000119/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Nikos Androulakis (S&D)

Subject: Save – Autonomous Programme

The Save – Autonomous Programme was launched on 9 December with more than EUR 860 million in funding, most of which was provided by the European Regional Development Fund.

Although, in theory, the programme aims at upgrading the energy of private buildings and homes and tackling energy poverty, the only criteria applied to applications are that they are processed on a first-come, first-served basis and, once resources have been depleted, the scheme is closed. There is no socioeconomic criterion or criteria based on energy priority or the fight against 'energy poverty'.

As a new EUR 1 billion programme is expected in 2021, can the Commission say:

1. Is the allocation of funds to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, without any meaningful criteria, compatible with the objectives of the European Green Deal and efforts to achieve the new target of a 55% reduction in emissions by 2030?
2. How can it ensure that, in the future at least, the Greek Government will not adopt a 'first-come, first-served' approach again but will finance projects that have the greatest added value in terms of achieving climate goals and reducing energy poverty?
3. What steps has it taken to implement the proposals contained in the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 11/2020, in particular as regards the selection of funded projects?