

**Question for written answer E-000328/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Javi López (S&D)

Subject: Electricity company handling of Storm Filomena

Catalonia was particularly hard hit by Storm Filomena, which left more than 390 000 residents of 29 Catalan municipalities with no power — and without light or heat — for several days during a very cold spell. This was not the first time there had been such a disaster: during Storm Gloria, electricity companies had failed to make structural investments and maintain the network, and a large amount of electricity had been siphoned off the grid.

Given that the Mediterranean is one of the areas most affected by climate change and is likely to suffer more climatic events in the years ahead:

1. What means does the Commission have at its disposal to demand that regional governments — in our case the Catalan Government — take responsibility for the management of the electricity grid, prioritise continued investment and combat electricity fraud by criminals?
2. Can the Commission insist that companies carry out the necessary maintenance and structural investments to prevent such cuts in the event of extreme weather?
3. Would the Commission advise those affected to address the European Ombudsman to exercise their rights as consumers?