

**Question for written answer E-002114/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Roman Haider (ID), Georg Mayer (ID), Harald Vilimsky (ID)

Subject: 2020 consumer survey

On 12 March 2021, the Commission published important data on consumer behaviour in 2020. On average, 38% of EU citizens were worried about being able to pay next month's bills.¹

One statistic gives the reasons for not paying bills as debt overload (88% of cases) and unemployment (67%).²

1. Does the Commission have access to studies estimating the percentage of EU citizens who were actually unable to pay their bills?
2. What solutions is the Commission examining which will enable citizens to pay their bills in future?
3. Has the Commission determined a time frame for tackling these problems?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1104

² <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/165471/umfrage/gruende-fuer-das-nichtbezahlen-von-offenen-rechnungen/>