

**Question for written answer E-003979/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Surge in electricity prices

Affordable clean energy is one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals¹ that the EU has undertaken to implement². Over the last few months, however, Europe has seen a general increase in wholesale electricity costs³, which is in danger of being passed on to consumers and businesses. In Greece, the EU Member State with the highest electricity costs, the wholesale price rose above EUR 100 per megawatt hour in July, reaching EUR 185.59 on 4 August⁴. With 63.6% of households⁵ and 26.3% of small and micro enterprises⁶ already struggling to pay their electricity bills, a substantial increase now seems more than likely and the threat of energy poverty is looming.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission explain the significant divergences in electricity prices between Member States and say how it plans to address the issue?
2. What action could be taken to prevent concerted practices leading to inflated electricity prices being passed on to households and businesses in Member States such as Greece?
3. What measures is the Commission considering to ensure effective price regulation, prevent concerted practices and market distortion and thus ensure a drastic reduction in energy costs for final recipients?

¹ <https://unric.org/el/%CF%83%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%87%CE%BF%CF%83-7-%CF%86%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BD%CE%B7-%CE%BA%CE%B1%CE%B9-%CE%BA%CE%B1%CE%B8%CE%B1%CF%81%CE%B7-%CE%B5%CE%BD%CE%B5%CF%81%CE%B3%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%B1/>

² https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/sustainable-development-goals_en

³ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-08-05/europe-faces-an-energy-shock-after-gas-and-power-prices-rocket?sref=ZJiv0M0y>

⁴ <https://www.worldenergynews.gr/index.php?id=526781>

⁵ https://www.avgi.gr/oikonomia/387294_katharoyis-logariasmoys-zitoyn-oi-katanalotes

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<https://imegseevee.gr/%ce%b4%ce%b7%ce%bc%ce%bf%cf%83%ce%b9%ce%b5%cf%8d%cf%83%ce%b5%ce%b9%cf%82/examiniaia-apatyposi-oikonomikou-klimatos-stis-mikres-epicheiriseis-fevrouarios-2021/>