

**Question for written answer E-004481/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Shielding the incomes of working people from the increasing cost of basic consumer goods

Over the last three months there has been a continuous increase in the price of electricity, natural gas, heating oil, fuel in general and many basic consumer goods, as well as rents. This is taking place throughout the EU.

The ND Government claims to be taking countermeasures by setting up the 'energy transition' and similar funds. However, the money for this is once again coming from swingeing taxes on working people.

This is the result of an unregulated cut-throat capitalist market, the 'deregulation' of the electricity market, 'green transition', 'emissions trading' and state support for monopolistic groups.

In view of this:

1. How does the Commission justify energy deregulation, business competitiveness, delignification and green 'New Deal' strategies that are being promoted by the EU, given that they have not only failed to cut electricity and fuel costs and the price of basic consumer goods but have, on the contrary, increased them to such a degree as to decimate the meagre incomes of working people?
2. How does it explain the fact that business groups are raking in Recovery Fund subsidies that are being funded by taxes and other measures targeting hard-pressed working people, while the latter, who are already being crushed by rising prices, are now being called upon make further sacrifices in order to finance government plans announced by Greece and other Member States to curb these price increases?