

EN

E-004545/2021

Answer given by Ms Simson
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.1.2022)

The Energy Poverty Observatory has been upgraded to an Energy Poverty Advisory Hub¹. It will continue monitoring national indicators and will provide technical assistance to local actors addressing energy poverty.

In follow up to last year's Recommendation on Energy poverty², the Commission proposed a common definition of energy poverty in the recent review of the Energy Efficiency Directive³. As an immediate follow-up to the Commission's toolbox⁴ of measures to support Member States in addressing the impact of the price increases, an Energy Poverty and Vulnerable Consumers Coordination Group will be established to continue cooperation with the Member States in this area.

As regards future developments, the Commission's statistical office is currently updating data on energy poverty for 2020⁵. The Commission assessed distributional impacts when preparing the legislative package to implement the European Green Deal. It proposed a dedicated Social Climate Fund (SCF)⁶ to address the risks of the disproportionate impacts the introduction of emissions trading for buildings and road transport may have on the energy poor and other vulnerable groups.

The energy poverty concept refers to households, however, links between energy poverty and energy vulnerability of small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular of micro-enterprises, are relevant within the scope of the proposed SCF.

¹ <https://energy-poverty.ec.europa.eu/>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020H1563>

³ COM(2021) 558 final.

⁴ COM(2021) 660 final.

⁵ The Commission's statistical office (Eurostat) publishes annually the 'at risk of poverty and social exclusion rate'. This is the main indicator to monitor the EU 2030 target on poverty and social exclusion. Eurostat will also collect distributional information (households) on housing conditions, including deprivation and energy efficiency in 2023.

⁶ COM(2021) 568 final.