

**Question for written answer E-004545/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU-wide monitoring of energy poverty

Energy poverty is an increasing problem throughout the EU. For example, more than 500 000 Dutch households live in energy poverty¹. Moreover, at least two million Dutch homeowners do not have the financial means to make their homes more energy efficient². The European Green Deal proposals will also disproportionately affect low- and middle-income households, because energy has a lower price elasticity for these households³.

In its country-specific recommendations (CSRs), the Commission has already made references to energy poverty and recommendations on energy efficiency⁴. Better EU-wide monitoring of energy poverty is necessary in order to understand the developments, distribution and size of the problem and to allow for more targeted and effective policy making.

1. Given that the Energy Poverty Observatory⁵ is inactive, is the Commission currently monitoring the degree of energy poverty throughout the EU? If so, how and where precisely, and on the basis of what common definition?
2. What developments does the Commission expect regarding the number of people living in energy and mobility poverty in each Member State, bearing in mind the proposals of the European Green Deal?
3. To what extent has the Commission investigated corporate energy poverty? Can it apply the energy poverty metric to small and medium-sized enterprises too, and especially to small companies?

¹ According to the Dutch independent research organisation TNO: <https://www.tno.nl/nl/over-tno/nieuws/2021/9/tno-brengt-energiearmoede-gedetailleerd-in-kaart/>

² According to the National Institute for Family Finance Information: <https://www.nibud.nl/beroepsmatig/rapport-kunnen-woningeigenaren-energie-investeringen-betalen/>

³ According to a report by the Polish Economic Institute, the European Roundtable on Climate Change and Sustainable Transition and Cambridge Econometrics: <https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.137.163/z7r.689.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/20210628-Final-Report-New-Title.pdf>

⁴ The Commission has included recommendations regarding energy efficiency in, for example, the Dutch, Romanian, Polish and Bulgarian CSRs in 2019. Energy poverty is highlighted in the recitals of the Polish CSR of 2019.

⁵ <https://www.energypoverty.eu/>