

**Question for written answer E-004706/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Miroslav Radačovský (NI)

Subject: Energy poverty

Act No 250/2012 Coll. on the regulation of network industries defines the concept of energy poverty as a situation in which a household's average monthly expenditure on the consumption of electricity, gas, heating and domestic hot water constitutes a significant share of the average monthly household income.

The law does not define the term 'significant share'.

The term 'energy poverty' is not defined any further in the current Slovak legislation.

It would therefore seem that the legal order of the Slovak Republic does not guarantee sufficient protection of natural persons and consumers who meet the criteria for energy poverty.

Unless the state provides an exact definition of energy poverty and states who falls under it in its national legislation, protection for consumers cannot be guaranteed.

1. In the event that a breach of consumer protection rights is found to exist, does the Commission intend to address a formal request for further information regarding this matter to Slovakia?
2. If the Commission concludes that Slovakia is not complying with its obligations under EU law, does the Commission intend to address a formal request for Slovakia to comply with EU law?