

**Question for written answer E-004735/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Rosanna Conte (ID)**

**Subject:** Gas price increase and impact on Murano glassware

In recent weeks, the price of methane gas and other energy sources has risen sharply, which is impacting on the spending power of citizens and businesses and on the cost of raw materials.

This is a particularly worrying scenario for Murano glassware. The 400% increase in the price of the methane gas used to stoke the furnaces, which have to operate around the clock, is expected to have serious repercussions not only on these ever-famous artisanal products, but also on the very survival of one Venice's most typical traditions.

Murano glassware is a quintessential artisanal product. These works are of unique value and constitute an art form which features on UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage<sup>1</sup>.

These energy price increases nevertheless threaten to bring to their knees entire industries which rely on the use of gas as an indispensable input and which have therefore nose-dived in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, just a few weeks ahead of the winter.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to provide specific aid for undertakings and industries, such as Murano artisanal glassworks, which have to use gas continually in their operations?
2. Does the Commission agree that small and micro enterprises should be better protected in the face of the ambitious goals of the energy transition?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unesco.it/it/Patrimoniolmmateriale/Detail/973>