

**Question for written answer E-004843/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Bogdan Rzońca (ECR)**

**Subject:** Key legislative proposals in the Fit for 55 package leading to an increase in energy poverty in the European Union

The Fit for 55 package is part of the EU's climate and energy reform. The proposed changes concern not only energy, but many areas of the economy.

The costs of climate ambitions will burden the economy and citizens, who will have to make an effort to adapt to the new EU regulations. Once climate targets have been set, the ways to achieve them then need to be sought. In this case, now that the objectives have been formulated, doubts are starting to arise over, for example, where to find the funds and how to mitigate the effects of rising energy prices. The costs and benefits of this process are distributed unevenly, having the effect of closing off some regions in a restricted development trap. Some estimates suggest that around 100 million EU citizens are affected by some form of energy poverty.

1. Is the Commission aware of the inevitable increase in electricity, gas and fuel prices that will result from the implementation of the Fit for 55 package, which will affect households by increasing levels of energy and transport poverty?
2. In view of the restrictive nature of this package, which will place a burden on various branches of industry, does the Commission have any data on the anticipated rise in unemployment levels, and is it planning to increase the budget of the European Social Fund in order to tackle that rise? How big would that increase need to be to deal with the new wave of unemployment?
3. Does building a European identity centred around climate change issues justify encroaching on the energy sovereignty of Member States and the loss of the EU's economic competitiveness?