

**Question for written answer E-004962/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Energy poverty

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global and European economy have created major disruptions to supply and demand. As a result, the EU is currently facing an ongoing energy crisis, with prices of gas, electricity and CO₂ increasing daily at astonishing rates. During the first week of October in particular, Dutch gas futures reached a price of EUR 114 per megawatt hour. In Germany, the price of power rose to EUR 155 per megawatt hour, and in Spain, prices reached EUR 205 per megawatt hour.

Many governments are passing legislation to tackle rising energy prices, but the truth is that many people are suffering as a result of the escalation of prices, especially those who are most vulnerable. According to data from the Commission, around 34 million Europeans reported an inability to keep their homes adequately warm in 2018, and 6.9 % of the EU population have said that they cannot afford to heat their home sufficiently.

As winter approaches and prices continue to escalate,

1. How does the Commission plan to guarantee a safe and sufficient electricity supply to the EU?
2. What measures can be proposed and/or implemented at an EU level to protect vulnerable consumers?