

**Question for written answer E-005651/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Harald Vilimsky (ID), Georg Mayer (ID)**

Subject: Protecting children's rights in times of energy crisis

The Commission has adopted a comprehensive EU strategy on the rights of the child and a proposal for a Council recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee. The aim is to promote equal opportunities for children at risk of poverty or social exclusion. The EU's action has far-reaching consequences for the lives of children in the Member States. Europe's current energy crisis is sending prices soaring this winter, leaving poorer families and, therefore, many children in need facing yet another major challenge.

1. Does the Commission view rising childhood poverty as one of the consequences of the energy crisis?
2. Are there concerns that the EU's ambitious climate plans will undermine the promotion of equal opportunities for children at risk of poverty or social exclusion?
3. What specific measures, such as grants for heating bills, does it recommend Member States introduce to mitigate the direct effects of the energy crisis on vulnerable households and ensure decent living conditions for children?