

**Question for written answer E-000058/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Energy shortages in the EU

Several European countries have been affected by a sharp rise in energy prices, which Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson says will last until spring.

The Commission is making considerable efforts to increase the proportion of renewable energy in the EU. At the same time, the fossil fuel sector is under pressure to deliver to its customers. Taxes, court rulings and increasingly scarce access to capital are making it less attractive to invest in new sources of energy if they are linked to fossil fuels.

At present, renewables cannot meet energy needs, in particular because we do not have the technology to store energy from intermittent electricity generation.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission agree that there is a risk of an energy deficit in the EU? What strategy is there to deal with these developments?
2. What responsibility does the Commission bear for rising energy prices and the impact on vulnerable groups in society?
3. What is the Commission's view of the fact that fossil-fuel energy production is likely to suffer owing to a lack of capital?