

**Question for written answer E-000582/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Kostas Papadakis (NI), Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Compensation for those affected by recent adverse weather conditions

Workers in Attica and elsewhere found themselves struggling to cope with the anticipated spell of bad weather, which was compounded by the lack of effective government countermeasures in essential sectors.

Thousands of drivers were left stranded on the road, while airport staff and other workers found themselves in a similar situation. Passengers using TrainOSE privatised railway services encountered major difficulties. Access to essential services such as hospitals, healthcare centres and vaccination centres was also cut off.

Hard-pressed workers met with little sympathy from employers determined to squeeze all they could from them regardless, culminating in nursing staff and doctors being kept on call for 16 to 48 hours at a stretch.

In light of this:

1. What view does the Commission take of this harmful obsession with cost-efficiency at EU and government level, undermining civil protection services, depriving them of the necessary staff, equipment and infrastructure and leaving the public to suffer the consequences?
2. What does it think of EU and government road and rail transport and infrastructural strategies that are designed to maximise corporate earnings through subsidies, tolls and profit guarantee clauses, placing the lives and safety of workers at greater risk and urgently necessitating unconditional compensation payments from the EU Solidarity Fund for losses sustained?
3. How does it view the deregulation of energy prices under the 'Green and Digital Transition' strategy, driving up costs and leaving thousands of homes without heating?