

Question for written answer E-000691/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Leszek Miller (S&D)

Subject: Disinformation campaign by state-owned energy companies to blame the EU for energy price increases in Poland

Energy companies controlled by the Polish Government have financed an advertising campaign claiming that the EU is responsible for the increases in electricity prices. Thousands of billboards in all Polish cities are displaying the graphic and slogan: 'The EU Climate Charge accounts for as much as 60 % of the cost of energy production. EU Climate Policy = Expensive Energy and High Prices'. A special website was also launched, informing the public that the main responsibility for the increase in energy prices in Poland lies with the policy being pursued by Brussels.

The campaign, which was inspired by the Polish Government, is an example of pure manipulation. Its aim is to mislead consumers and to effectively cause Poles to become disenchanted with the EU. Independent market analyses indicate that it is not only rising CO2 prices that have contributed to the increase in electricity prices in Poland, but, above all, the record margins imposed by coal producers. Moreover, last year Poland earned as much as PLN 25 billion from the sale of CO2 emission rights – the highest among the Member States participating in the system. However, only a small share of this money (approximately 4 %) was earmarked for the modernisation of the energy sector. The Law and Justice Government has thus wasted money which could have contributed to lowering electricity prices.

Does the Commission intend to counteract this systematic campaign of disinformation by conducting its own information campaign in Poland on the real reasons for the rise in the price of electricity and energy resources in the EU?