

**Question for written answer E-001136/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Addressing energy prices and improving the resilience of EU energy infrastructure

In Spain, electricity prices have surged from EUR 54/MWh (8 March 2021)¹ to EUR 545/MWh (8 March 2022). This steep price hike is due to the soaring gas prices following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Gas prices set the overall electricity prices regardless of the cost of other energy sources. This disruption in the energy market affects both households and enterprises, thus affecting competitiveness in many crucial sectors. In the meantime, big energy companies are making windfall profits up to 226 % higher than in the previous year (EUR 11 billion).²

In 2019, the Midi-Catalonia (Midcat) pipeline project was put on pause because of a Commission report stating that the project would only be worthwhile in the event of gas prices skyrocketing or of a conflict with Russia. Midcat would double the gas connection between the Iberian Peninsula and the European continent, thus increasing the resilience of the EU energy system. In the near future, the pipeline could be used to transport green hydrogen and biomethane.

1. Will the Commission urgently reform the current energy pricing model in order to decouple electricity prices from gas?
2. Will the Commission resume the Midcat project and provide the necessary funding to implement it?

¹ <https://www.omie.es/es/market-results/daily/daily-market/daily-hourly-price>

² https://es.ara.cat/opinion/beneficios-electricas-precio-luz_129_4294544.html