

**Question for written answer E-001223/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Adaptation of the Social Climate Fund following the war in Ukraine

On 14 July 2021, the Commission published its proposal for the Social Climate Fund in order to mitigate the impact of the energy transition on vulnerable citizens and micro-enterprises.

The unjustified and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine by Russia has triggered a radical change in the geopolitical landscape and hence also a change in the EU's energy supply lines, fuelling a direct increase in energy costs and inflation, and with these energy poverty and social hardship, especially for the members of our societies who are most at-risk.

The Social Climate Fund, which was devised at a time preceding this far-reaching conflict, has therefore already been overtaken by events and requires a deep rethink if the economic and social impacts of energy poverty are to be averted.

Can the Commission therefore state:

1. What action it intends to take to adapt the Social Climate Fund to the challenges faced?
2. Whether it is considering the possibility of the fund being financed through public debt, along the same lines as SURE?
3. What extraordinary initiatives it plans to take to counter the increase in energy poverty among citizens and businesses, with a particular focus on SMEs?