

**Question for written answer E-001469/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Reducing energy dependency on Russian gas by temporarily reducing the cost of lignite and hard coal emission allowances

Greece has become excessively dependent on natural gas for energy, importing 40-50% of its needs from Russia.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, an immediate reduction of dependency on imported Russian gas and oil is necessary, given that the EU-27 is currently financing Russian aggression to the tune of around EUR 1 billion a day.

Greece is now paying a heavy price for its increased energy dependence on natural gas (40-50%), which had become extremely expensive even before the Russian invasion. Since autumn 2021, Germany, which is still in favour of the EU green transition strategy, has nevertheless reduced the share of natural gas in overall power generation to 15%, while increasing that of lignite and hard coal to 30%.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say why it is not providing incentives to promote the use of lignite and hard coal for power generation by provisionally reducing emission allowance costs, provided that this is done for the sole purpose of reducing energy dependency on Russia, thereby enabling Greece to contain the soaring energy costs resulting from its high degree of dependency on natural gas and curb the monthly increase in its trade deficit?