With the 2021 Fit for 55 package the Commission proposed to reinforce the EU framework for addressing energy poverty. This includes an EU definition of energy poverty and an obligation on Member States to prioritise energy savings amongst vulnerable groups in the recast Energy Efficiency Directive\(^1\) proposal as well avoid disproportionate rent increases for these categories following building refurbishments in the recast Energy Performance of Buildings proposal\(^2\). The Commission also proposed a dedicated funding mechanism (the Social Climate Fund). The upcoming updates of the National Energy and Climate Plans will be an opportunity for Member States to deepen national assessment and devise strategies to tackle energy poverty.

In the current high prices context, the Commission has set out a toolbox of measures\(^3\) to protect consumers from rising energy bills. Romania has taken significant measures\(^4\) to address the energy prices increase for final consumers.

For immediate financing options, Romania plans to use its Recovery and Resilience Plan\(^5\) to invest in energy efficiency and energy renovation of buildings\(^6\) with dedicated calls for vulnerable consumers. Romania can also dedicate part of its cohesion funding to these purposes.

Solid biomass is an important source of heating in several Member States, including Romania. For private installations, modern and efficient boilers and properly dry and suitable wood increase efficiency and reduce negative impacts\(^7\).

\(^{1}\) COM/2021/558 final.
\(^{2}\) COM/2021/802 final.
\(^{5}\) approved by the Council on 29 October 2021.
\(^{7}\) Alongside necessary improvements of air quality, modern boilers and stoves with controllable air supply can draw in the combustion air from the outside rather than from the heated room for operating as efficiently as possible.