

**Question for written answer E-002024/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Biomethane as a substitute for Russian gas imports

A decision to impose a gradual embargo on Russian oil imports was taken during a special summit on 30 May 2022. Many other measures have also been taken to admonish Russia.

Very few measures have been taken, however, in the interests of people living in the EU Member States, even though Eurostat reports that the inflation rate for energy prices has now hit 44 % since March 2021.

The problems created by this embargo are twofold: on the one hand it will not stop inflation, on the other, it will force the EU to accept its responsibilities by helping Member States finance their transition to energy self-sufficiency.

To become less dependent on Russia and its natural gas supplies, the EU must now turn to biomethane. Being greener and cheaper than traditional gas, it will very quickly become indispensable.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission plan to offer every Member State financial assistance with deploying budgetary policies targeting energy price inflation?
2. What specific measures will the Commission take so EU Member States can free themselves from dependency on energy from Russia?
3. Will it direct its investments in energy towards biomethane?