

**Question for written answer E-003131/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Anna Zalewska (ECR)

Subject: The Gas Directive – support for small and medium-sized enterprises

As a result of disruptions to the gas supply market, the Polish Parliament has taken decisions to assist individual gas consumers and a group of entities that are particularly sensitive to uncontrolled increases in gas prices by adopting the Act on special solutions for the protection of consumers of gaseous fuels in connection with the situation on the gas market on 26 January 2022.

In view of the scale and unpredictability of the changes and the duration of significant disturbances in the supply market, the protective solutions provided for under this Act should also be extended to businesses from the SME sector.

Including them in the group of vulnerable consumers of gaseous fuels on an equal footing with households and housing communities, etc., will ensure that they have a chance of surviving this difficult period.

Action has already been taken on this issue in Poland, which, however, is limited by Directive 2009/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas and repealing Directive 2003/55/EC.

In this situation, the only effective solution may be to amend the Directive towards an unambiguous description of governments' actions in regulating the price of gaseous fuel and a clear definition of vulnerable entities.

Does the Commission plan to propose clear courses of action and guidelines to Member States' governments, based on the Commission's powers under the aforementioned Directive: 'In the event of a sudden crisis in the energy market or where the physical safety or security of persons, apparatus or installations or system integrity is threatened, a Member State may temporarily take the necessary safeguard measures'?