

**Question for written answer E-003207/2022/rev.1
to the Council**
Rule 138
Nils Ušakovs (S&D)

Subject: Support for municipalities severely affected by the energy crisis

Following the proposal for a Council regulation on an emergency intervention to address high energy prices¹, the Commission aims to reduce energy consumption and redistribute the surplus profits made by energy companies to consumers.

The implementation of this regulation may not contribute equally to the solution of the energy crisis in all Member States, however.

For example, in Latvia the redistribution of energy companies' profits will not have any additional effect, because Latvia's Latvenergo is a state-owned company whose profits go to the state budget. Also, Latvia's cold winter climate limits the opportunities for reducing energy consumption.

Moreover, apart from intolerably high energy prices, some large Latvian municipalities, such as Daugavpils and Rēzekne, are facing difficulties in obtaining the necessary amount of gas or wood chips for heating purposes.

1. Has the Council considered the risk that some municipalities in some EU Member States could be left without heating this winter?
2. If national governments are unable to offer urgent solutions, would the Council consider intervening? What immediate actions does the Council intend to take to support municipalities that are severely affected by the energy crisis?

¹ COM(2022)0473.