

**Question for written answer E-003371/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Heating homes with woody biomass, and derogations from emission limit

The rise in energy costs as a result of the invasion of Ukraine and geopolitical and market uncertainties are putting considerable strain on families in Europe, who are bracing themselves for a harsh winter and skyrocketing energy prices.

Many are planning to get around the problem by using traditional heating systems, such as wood-burning fireplaces.

According to press reports, however, certain traditional forms of heating are banned and subject to hefty fines in a number of regions in Italy (including Lombardy, Veneto, Piedmont and Emilia-Romagna), in line with EU emissions guidelines.

Against this background, Lombardy Region, for example, has already requested that the Italian Government ask the EU for an ad hoc derogation on emissions.

Italy is in dire energy straits, particularly in the regions of the Po Valley.

In view of this, can the Commission say whether it would be possible to temporarily, and exceptionally, grant a number of Italian regions (Lombardy, Veneto, Piedmont, Emilia-Romagna) an exemption (at least for autumn and winter 2022-2023) from the emission limits set in Directive 2008/50/EC to permit the use of wood-burning fireplaces and woody biomass to heat homes?