

**Question for written answer E-003771/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Eugen Tomac (PPE)

Subject: Illegal logging

The spike in gas and electricity prices is having a knock-on effect on all branches of the European economy, but above all else it is affecting Europe's citizens. They are desperately trying to avoid having freezing cold homes this winter.

The best solution, especially in the countryside, is to use firewood. The price has exploded for this too, of course, but for millions of European citizens it is the only option. This has naturally led to deforestation – some legal, but mainly illegal – with a destructive impact on the environment.

Romania is already subject to infringement proceedings for illegal logging, but with the price of firewood having increased threefold, there is still a black market in wood.

What steps is the Commission taking to deal with this situation, given that over 5 million households in Romania are heated with wood?

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