

**Question for written answer E-000471/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Limited production capacity in the heat pump sector in the context of EU climate policy

The war in Ukraine and drastic increases in gas and coal prices have caused a surge in demand for heat pumps across Europe. The increase in demand has revealed inefficiencies in the sector due to limited production capacity and a shortage of skilled labour¹.

Euractiv reports that the EU's EUR 249 million heat pump trade surplus with China of 2015 turned into a EUR 40 million deficit five years later².

Meanwhile, REPowerEU projects the installation of 30 million heat pumps by 2030 and the EP's ITRE Committee has adopted a position paper on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, which proposes to ban the installation of gas boilers in new buildings from 2027.

1. What financial and R&D measures does the Commission intend to take to increase heat pump production capacity in Europe and to prevent the Union from becoming dependent on China in yet another sector of the economy?
2. For many Europeans, installing a heat pump represents an investment beyond their financial means. How does the Commission intend to ensure that these devices are affordable, and are plans being made for EU funding schemes?
3. The large-scale introduction of heat pumps will mean millions of new heating systems putting a strain on the electricity grid. Has the Commission carried out a feasibility study of EU targets, in such a short time frame, for individual Member States?

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¹ <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/europes-booming-demand-for-heat-pumps-exposes-bottlenecks/>

² <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/battle-for-dominance-in-heat-pump-markets-reaches-europe/>