

**Question for written answer E-001854/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The South African energy crisis

South Africa has been experiencing a severe energy crisis since 2007, primarily as a result of deep-rooted corruption and the mismanagement of its state-owned power utility, Eskom. To deal with electricity shortages, the people living in South Africa have been subjected to blackouts for up to 12 hours a day, with recent reports indicating that the situation will deteriorate even further, leading to up to 16 hours of power cuts a day during the winter months.

1. Does the Commission agree that ensuring that the people in South Africa have access to electricity 24 hours a day takes priority over the Green Deal and related projects?
2. Since the South African Government is evidently unable to manage a power utility, does the Commission agree that it would be more effective to invest in SMEs working on alternative sources of energy, rather than feeding the corruption that has been exposed at Eskom?
3. Given that the South African Government cannot provide a basic service such as electricity to the country's residents, does the Commission agree that its pet project of decarbonisation in South Africa, at a cost of EUR 280 million to European taxpayers, is reckless and irresponsible, and that it is essential for realistic alternative energy sources to be in place before coal reliance is scaled down?

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