

**Question for written answer E-001859/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Andreas Schwab (PPE)

Subject: Compatibility of German electricity subsidies with European State aid law

On 5 May 2023, the German Government announced in a working paper that it would be introducing a temporary electricity subsidy (Brückenstrompreis), guaranteeing certain companies electricity at 6 cents per kWh until 2030 through State subsidies. This scheme will apply to energy-intensive industries. However, the companies concerned have already been benefitting from generous subsidies for years.

1. Given that the Temporary Crisis Framework, which also enabled the Electricity Price Brake Act to be adopted, expires at the end of the year and that the framework accordingly no longer constitutes a basis for approval, how was the planned 'Brückenstrompreis' scheme approved in the first place?
2. How is the need for such a proposed subsidy to be assessed in view of falling electricity prices?
3. How should the introduction of such subsidies be viewed in relation to Article 5 of Directive (EU) 2019/944 and Articles 12 and 13 of Regulation (EU) 2022/1854, given that under this legislation electricity prices can be fixed only in limited cases and only for the benefit of vulnerable household customers and SMEs?

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