

**Question for written answer E-000261/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Excessively high energy bills in Spain

In 2022 and 2023, households in Spain paid an extra EUR 12 billion for their electricity and gas bills. Prices were driven up by the application of the excise tax and VAT, charged on the fixed part of the bill.<sup>1</sup> Spain's Competition Authority (CNMC) noted that between January and October 2023, 'the temporary deviation between income and costs was +EUR 3.4353 billion'<sup>2</sup>

These same settlements put the surplus for 2022 at EUR 6.19 billion, which raises the combined figure for those two years to EUR 9.625 billion. This comes from another accumulation of profits accounting for between EUR 837 million and EUR 2.671 billion for energy companies.<sup>3</sup> In Spain, the energy sector is made up of four big companies with strong ties to the two main political parties<sup>4</sup> that together account for 86.1 % of the energy market<sup>5</sup>.

In a 2021 communication, the Commission presented proposals to tackle high energy prices<sup>6</sup>, such increased market surveillance to 'ensure the transparency and integrity of the functioning of the markets, dispelling concerns of manipulative practices or abuses', and included using the mechanism set out in the Regulation on Wholesale Energy Market Integrity and Transparency (REMIT)<sup>7</sup>.

1. Does the Commission consider that these high rises in energy prices in Spain are potentially caused by manipulation and market distortion stemming from market concentration of and by the main energy companies?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.publico.es/economia/energeticas-han-cobrado-12000-millones-anos-familias-empresas-recibos-luz-gas.html>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.cnmc.es/listado/expedientes\\_energia\\_liquidaciones/block/250/12777](https://www.cnmc.es/listado/expedientes_energia_liquidaciones/block/250/12777).

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.eldiario.es/economia/cinco-grandes-energeticas-espanolas-disparan-41-beneficio-ganan-10-000-millones-septiembre\\_1\\_9703989.html](https://www.eldiario.es/economia/cinco-grandes-energeticas-espanolas-disparan-41-beneficio-ganan-10-000-millones-septiembre_1_9703989.html).

<sup>4</sup> <https://pobresaenergetica.es/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Radiografia-del-lobby-energetico.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.economiadigital.es/noticias/las-cuatro-grandes-energeticas-dominan-el-mercado-electrico-espanol.html#:~:text=Iberdrola%20se%20posiciona%20como%20I%C3%ADder,con%20un%204%2C3%25>.

<sup>6</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2021%3A660%3AFIN&qid=1634215984101&utm\\_source=aposto#footnote26](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2021%3A660%3AFIN&qid=1634215984101&utm_source=aposto#footnote26)

<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 of 25 October 2011 on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency, OJ L 326, 8.12.2011, p. 1.