

ORAL QUESTION H-0149/08  
for Question Time at the part-session in March 2008  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Danutė Budreikaitė  
to the Commission

Subject: Rights of consumers to connect to electricity networks

In Lithuania, when a private individual builds accommodation, the electricity company Rytų skirstomieji tinklai (Eastern Distribution Networks) refuses to connect the property to the existing electricity main, citing insufficient capacity. The individual has to cover 40% of the cost of constructing a new main from the substation to the property and, often, of building a new substation as well. The company has the right to connect more consumers to the newly constructed main.

Having financed the enlargement of the infrastructure of, and the acquisition of property by, a (state or private) energy company, the consumer has no rights of ownership over the property and receives no reductions on the energy supplied.

Can the Commission comment on this state of affairs? Is this not an infringement of consumer and property rights? Are energy companies not abusing their monopoly position? How can this consumer rights problem be resolved? What is the experience of the EU Member States?

Tabled: 26.02.2008  
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