

**Priority question for written answer P-003759/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Gas price caps

While Europe is in agreement about the need to cap energy prices, no solution for achieving this has yet been found. Sterile discussions and unrealistic hopes have been the order of the day since the Energy Council of 9 September as we await the follow-up to take place on 24 November.

With 15 Member States calling for a gas price cap over the last few months, the outlines of a legislative proposal are now emerging.

In my opinion, the heavy burden on EU citizens facing massive energy bills this winter is, at least in part, directly attributable to the Commission's irresolute stance and its failure to initiate the necessary institutional and legislative action this autumn.

Furthermore, a number of points in the Commission proposal to the Member States remain unclear. In view of this:

1. Can the Commission indicate the ceiling level at which gas prices should be capped? No limit is specified in the Commission proposal.
2. Has the impact of this 'market correction mechanism' on bills presented to European consumers been assessed ?
3. Why is the Commission refusing to impose a one-year cap on gas prices, thereby keeping bills within predictable limits, discouraging speculation and containing inflation?

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