

**Priority question for written answer P-000683/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Consequences for EU solidarity and energy security of fees for gas transit via Germany that are unjustified and incompatible with EU law

One of the consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine was the prospect of a massive energy crisis in the EU. When Russia reduced gas flows through Nord Stream in 2022, the German government began panic-buying gas at inflated prices. Most of the raw material was supplied by the Russian Federation, which further benefited from this situation. Meanwhile, the announced long-term crisis in the gas market never materialised. Germany has obviously incurred large losses from storing excess stocks of gas purchased at record high prices. To compensate for this, Berlin is currently passing on costs to neighbouring countries which import some or most of their gas through Germany<sup>12</sup>. The unjustified gas transit surcharge imposed by Berlin means that customers, particularly those in Central and Eastern Europe, are bearing additional costs of becoming independent of Russian gas imports.

1. What action will the Commission take to counteract the disruption in the European gas market caused by the irresponsible policies of the German government?
2. Is the increase in transit fees, resulting from the costs of an erroneous purchasing policy and dependence on Russia for supplies, in line with European regulations, including the Third Gas Package?
3. Does the Commission recognise that Germany passing on the costs of gas storage to neighbouring countries and the increased price of gas transit, which is not justified on market grounds, are obstacles to increasing the resilience of the EU energy system during Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/germany-in-hot-water-over-charging-eu-neighbours-for-gas-stored-in-2022/?utm\\_source=Euractiv&utm\\_campaign=33625e48ba-RSS\\_DAILYUPDATE\\_EN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_24f4b280c0-b00d8877da-%5BLIST\\_EMAIL\\_ID%5D](https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/germany-in-hot-water-over-charging-eu-neighbours-for-gas-stored-in-2022/?utm_source=Euractiv&utm_campaign=33625e48ba-RSS_DAILYUPDATE_EN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_24f4b280c0-b00d8877da-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/7e427aa9-68f1-4068-a95d-dac59aa35c29>