

Question for written answer E-000348/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Passing on the cost of electricity theft to honest consumers and network operator practices in Greece

According to reports, electricity theft in Greece has reached alarming proportions, with the total cost to the electricity market estimated at hundreds of millions of euro annually. This cost appears to be passed on indirectly to honest consumers through electricity tariffs, burdening households and small businesses.

At the same time, numerous complaints from citizens have been recorded about arbitrary or incompletely documented electricity theft charges by the Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator (HEDNO), which have led to legal appeals, with several decisions in favour of consumers. In the same context, the Regulatory Authority for Waste, Energy and Water (RAAEY) has imposed an administrative fine on HEDNO for the violation of prescribed procedures and abusive practices in the control of and imposition of charges for electricity theft.

Given the obligations of the Member States to protect consumers, ensure transparency in the operations of network operators and ensure fair cost sharing in the internal energy market:

1. How does the Commission assess the passing on of the costs of electricity theft to honest consumers in light of EU law on consumer protection and transparency in the energy market?
2. Does the Commission consider practices of imposing electricity theft charges by network operators to be compatible with EU law, when they are not based on fully documented, transparent and verifiable controls?
3. Does the Commission intend to request information from Greece and to examine the need for additional guidelines or supervisory measures, thus ensuring that tackling electricity theft does not lead to an unjustified burden on honest consumers?

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