

**Question for written answer E-003815/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Georgios Aftias (PPE)

Subject: Triggering a special support clause for electricity and fuel

Based on the communications issued by the Commission in 2026, there is fiscal space for actions to address high fuel and energy prices. Targeted subsidies for vulnerable households and support for businesses that have been especially hard hit by the energy crisis should be key tools in addressing this problem. The Commission has already allocated EUR 14.5 billion for measures to address the 2026 energy price shock. At the same time, the new European fiscal framework provides for the possibility of triggering an escape clause, which would allow for a temporary deviation from the agreed fiscal requirements in exceptional circumstances when there is a severe impact on public finances, provided that there is no threat to debt sustainability. Europe cannot be a passive bystander.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend, in view of persistent rising prices and high energy costs, to allow additional budgetary flexibility for Member States so that they can provide energy subsidies and direct payments to households, pensioners and small and medium-sized enterprises?
2. Is it considering triggering a special fiscal clause to address high prices and the energy crisis if high prices persist?

Submitted: 23.9.2026