

Question for written answer E-003939/2026

to the Commission

Rule 144

Erik Kaliňák (NI), Katarína Roth Neved'alová (NI)

Subject: From the 'strongest Union' to gas-saving measures in nine days

On 16 September 2026, the Commission President declared in her State of the Union address that 'our Union is the strongest it has ever been'. At the same time, she spoke of a Europe that is securing its prosperity and breaking free from its dependence on Russian fossil fuels.

Just nine days later, the Commissioner for Energy and Housing warned Member States that the EU was facing a 'price crisis linked to a supply crisis' and called on them to consider measures to reduce gas and electricity consumption 'for as long as necessary'. At the same time, he also recommended lowering the temperature in public buildings and switching off street lighting.

1. Does the Commission regard it as a sign of 'the strongest Union in history' when its Commissioner advises Member States to cut gas and electricity consumption, or did the Commission President simply fail to recognise the true state of the European energy sector in her speech?
2. Does the Commission regard it as a success of its energy policy that, after years of promises regarding energy security, diversification and 'breaking free from dependence', its solution to the price and supply crisis is, once again, to advise citizens and businesses to heat their homes less, use less lighting and consume less?
3. Is it perhaps the Commission's aim that, following the introduction of ETS2 and further increases in the cost of emissions, energy will become so expensive that citizens will stop heating their homes and Member States will switch off their street lighting of their own accord, thereby resolving the problem of energy shortages?

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