

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001651/24
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(6 September 2024)**

Subject: Energy costs of businesses in Europe

According to the Commission's latest report on energy prices and costs in Europe (COM(2024)136 final) 'the impact of higher prices on energy bills, particularly for the most vulnerable households and businesses, is still considerable. The rise in energy costs led to higher energy expenditure for low-income households. Similarly, the previously observed decline in energy costs shares in energy-intensive industries stopped and the reversal led to a significant challenges for most energy intensive industrial sectors, despite their good historical record in improving energy efficiency'. On 6 September 2024, twelve industrial associations in Greece issued a joint statement pointing out, amongst other things, that 'businesses, and particularly industry, in Greece are faced with electricity costs that are threatening their very existence as they are forced to function with much higher costs than their competitors'. In their statement they also called on 'Europe to take action to correct structural weaknesses' and 'on Greece to take immediate action, as other European countries are doing'.

1. How does the Commission plan on dealing with the increasing energy costs of businesses in Europe, which are higher compared to their main commercial competitors?
2. How does the Commission plan to guarantee equal conditions of competition in the internal market, addressing the higher energy prices traditionally seen in a number of EU Member States in South-East Europe in particular, compared to the rest of the EU?

Submitted: 6.9.2024

**Answer given by Ms Simson on behalf of the European Commission
(31 October 2024)**

The Commission is set to continue its work focusing on measures to bring down prices and costs for households and business by developing an Action Plan for Affordable Energy Prices ⁽¹⁾.

It will *inter alia* aim to support industries and companies through the transition, while unlocking decarbonisation pathways for industry and companies.

Furthermore, the Commission will continue to prioritise investments in clean energy infrastructure, in particular with a planned clean energy investment strategy for Europe, including clean infrastructure and storage.

This Action Plan for Affordable Energy Prices will build on the implementation of the adopted Electricity Market Design reform ⁽²⁾ and will include additional initiatives to enable lower energy costs for end-users while accelerating decarbonisation, to develop an overall cost-efficient system and ensure adequate investments in infrastructure.

The Commission will also continue to actively monitor the energy markets in Europe with a view to preserving competition on those markets and ensuring the supply of secure and clean energy at affordable prices to businesses and consumers.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1511

⁽²⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/markets-and-consumers/electricity-market-design_en#:~:text=Reform%20of%20the%20electricity%20market%20design.%20To%20boost%20renewables,%20better