

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002091/24
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(16 October 2024)**

Subject: Unreasonably high electricity prices

Electricity is more expensive in Greece and the countries of South-East Europe compared to other EU countries. Last summer, despite no increase in production costs, night-time electricity rates in Greece soared to EUR 900 over 25 days, which is incomprehensible to Greek citizens who feel confused and frustrated as they see that decisions concerning electricity prices are being made miles away from Greece due to weak grid connections in countries that do not share a border with Greece. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis sent a letter to the Commission some months ago emphasising ‘the need for you to intervene in order to stabilise the unacceptably high energy prices’.

International assessors have stressed that high prices are proof that there are weaknesses in the model the EU is applying and that it cannot go on functioning like this as it is generating huge costs for consumers, costs that will go up further in the winter.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission take decisive action to put an end to the problem of unacceptably high prices?
2. Will it intervene to ensure that existing connections between counties do not cause increases in electricity prices?
3. Will it fund electricity interconnections directly so as to solve the problem sooner?

Submitted: 16.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(24 January 2025)**

The issue of energy prices is of crucial importance both for the competitiveness of European companies and for the wellbeing of citizens.

The Commission has been assessing the root causes for the high electricity prices in Southeastern Europe and has engaged bilaterally with the respective Member States.

The Commission is in continuous discussions with Member States to support the implementation of adequate tools to respond to price spikes, without interfering with the proper functioning of the wholesale markets and the necessary investment needed for the energy transition.

These tools include mobilising non-fossil flexibility, reducing demand during critical hours, increasing cross-border capacities, and protecting consumers.

The existing internal market rules allow Member States to introduce all such measures, and the Commission is committed to support the Member States in their design.

The Commission also underlines the importance of using existing interconnections between Southeastern Europe and the rest of Europe efficiently, and is engaging with some Member States to support the maximisation of the use of existing interconnections.

European Union funding, in particular from the Connecting Europe Facility for Energy, is available for cross-border projects of common interest.

The facility has notably provided funding for the electrical interconnection between Greece and Bulgaria that was commissioned in 2023.

The Commission will actively work on affordability of energy. In this regard, already in the first 100 days of its mandate, the incoming Commission plans to adopt the Clean Industrial Deal, including an Action Plan for Affordable Energy.
