

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002436/24
to the Commission
Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE)
(6 November 2024)**

Subject: Low contribution of the green agenda and the fight against fuel poverty through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

In Galicia, one in four people are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This equates to 2.4%, or 8000 people, more than in 2015. In Galicia, the number of people suffering severe material and social deprivation, but who are not living in poverty, stands at 55.2%. Pensioners, single mothers, students or families with precarious jobs or without stable employment are currently finding it very difficult to pay their rent or make their mortgage repayments.

In September, the European Court of Auditors published a report highlighting the low contribution made by the RRF to the green transition and recommending improvements to the design, implementation and spending related to the climate agenda.

There are 94.6 million poor people in Europe, with families spending 40% of their wages on housing due to skyrocketing prices in the sector.

In view of this:

1. What does the Commission intend to do to ensure that the objectives of the green transition in terms of combating energy poverty receive due attention and funding from the Member States?

Submitted: 6.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(7 March 2025)**

Forty-seven million people in Europe did not have the possibility of adequately heating their homes last winter. It is unacceptable and the Commissioner for Energy and Housing states in his hearing that this needs to be addressed.

The existing EU legislative framework addresses the need to alleviate energy poverty. The Commission will strongly support its implementation.

The recently adopted Energy Efficiency Directive EU/2023/1791 ⁽¹⁾, for example, provides for the first time a definition of energy poverty and links it with measures to be implemented at national level to empower and protect all EU citizens.

The Social Climate Fund has been established to ensure a socially fair transition and address the social impacts of the new emissions trading system for buildings and road transport (ETS2) on vulnerable groups, especially those in energy or transport poverty.

Together with a mandatory minimum 25% contribution of the Member States, the Fund will mobilise at least EUR 86.7 billion over the 2026-2032 period.

People must always remain at the heart of EU ambitions, in her Political Guidelines 2024-2029 ⁽²⁾ and mission letters, the President of the Commission confirms that ensuring a just transition remains a priority.

The Commissioner for Energy and Housing has been tasked to develop a Citizens Energy Package to increase citizen participation in the energy transition and strengthen the social dimension of the Energy Union and to propose further measures to address energy poverty ⁽³⁾.

The Commission has put forward an Action Plan for Affordable Energy Prices, as part of the Clean Industrial Deal, to help bring down prices for households and business, helping combating energy poverty.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/1791/oj>

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/35154547-48c1-4671-8d34-13e098859a57_en?filename=mission-letter-jorgensen.pdf