

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002465/24
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(7 November 2024)**

Subject: Response to the challenges faced by energy-intensive industries

According to information presented recently by the Hellenic Union of Industrial Consumers of Energy (UNICEN), the energy-intensive industry sector is shrinking in Greece, and there are no new flagship investments. The high prices of electricity on the Greek wholesale market compared to competitive enterprises in the EU, and the lack of support from the Greek Government (unlike what is happening in other Member States), together with the challenges of the energy transition, present a combination of enormous challenges to the country's energy-intensive industries.

In view of this:

1. In its planning, what account does the Commission take of the reports concerning energy-intensive industry, where it is stated that, for technical reasons, industries with 24-hour high-energy demand cannot take advantage of solutions such as the use of energy purchase contracts between industries and alternative energy producers, and instead suggest green power demand pooling?
2. Does the Commission find that there are now different approaches to energy-intensive industries around Europe (different national support mechanisms for those industries), and, if so, how does it intend to address this issue, taking account of the higher wholesale electricity prices in Greece and other Member States in South-East Europe, compared to European and international competition?
3. How will these concerns be addressed in the forthcoming Clean Industrial Deal, Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act and Action Plan on Affordable Energy Prices?

Submitted: 7.11.2024

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

The Commission is carefully following the energy-prices situation, particularly in South-Eastern Europe. The Commission has already put forward several initiatives to mitigate the impact of the volatile price of fossil fuels on consumers.

The revised Electricity Market Regulation ⁽¹⁾ and Renewable Energy Directive ⁽²⁾ contain provisions to promote the use of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), by the industrial sector and limited to non-fossil generation. Pooling demand for PPAs is one of the instruments envisaged in legislation ⁽³⁾.

According to state aid rules, Member States can adopt measures like partial compensation of energy-intensive companies in sectors facing strong international competition for higher electricity prices resulting from indirect emission costs, ⁽⁴⁾ to prevent carbon leakage.

The reduction of levies financing energy policy objectives or by tax reductions allowed under the Energy Taxation Directive ⁽⁵⁾ are other possible measures. Greece has in place two approved schemes: a EUR 1.36 billion partial compensation scheme ⁽⁶⁾ and a levy reduction scheme ⁽⁷⁾.

The Commission will put forward the initiatives of question 3 in a timely manner, with some of them already in its first 100 days.

Their aim will be, amongst others, to bring down energy prices for companies and households, and supporting investment in clean energy infrastructure and technologies.

Cooperation between EU institutions, Member States and stakeholders is needed to streamline implementation and ensure affordability measures directly benefitting industries and citizens.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02019R0943-20240716>

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02018L2001-20240716>

⁽³⁾ Article 19a paragraph 2 of the revised Electricity Market Regulation 2024/1747.

⁽⁴⁾ Under the EU Emission Trading System.

⁽⁵⁾ Without approval by the Commission (in line with the General Block Exemption Regulation).

⁽⁶⁾ SA.103180, published in OJEU C/2023/186.

⁽⁷⁾ SA.52413, published in OJEU C/2019/078.