

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000301/25
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(23 January 2025)**

Subject: The rising cost of gas-fired power generation: a threat to affordability in the EU

Data from the think tank Ember reveals that in the first 10 days of 2025, the average cost of producing electricity from gas in the EU exceeded EUR 125/MWh, marking a 35% increase compared to the same period in 2024.

This sharp rise in electricity generation costs is driven by escalating gas prices, which have been on an upward trend since February 2024. The situation poses a significant challenge to maintaining affordable wholesale electricity prices across the EU, particularly for countries heavily reliant on gas in their electricity generation mix. These nations are expected to be the most severely affected by the rising costs.

The reliance on gas not only threatens energy affordability but also undermines efforts to stabilise energy markets and protect consumers from price volatility. With energy costs playing a pivotal role in economic competitiveness and household expenses, this issue demands urgent attention.

What immediate and medium-term measures does the Commission plan to implement to mitigate the impact of rising gas prices on electricity production costs?

Submitted: 23.1.2025

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

The Commission is fully aware of the recent rise of global gas prices and the challenge this imposes on EU businesses and citizens. It has already taken action to tackle this issue, such as emergency measures ⁽¹⁾ adopted during the crisis and the revision of the Electricity Market Design ⁽²⁾ adopted in 2024.

High gas prices impact electricity costs, whose increase is primarily driven by Europe's reliance on imported fossil fuels. While rolling out clean energy can help provide cheaper, homegrown power, remaining regulatory and market bottlenecks prevent industries and households from fully capturing the benefits of clean energy in their bills.

Within the frame of the Competitiveness Compass, the Commission presented the Clean Industrial Deal ⁽³⁾. Under the Clean Industrial Deal, the action plan for Affordable Energy ⁽⁴⁾ sets out the measures to address the challenges of energy prices for both households and businesses.

These measures aim at fostering energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment, accelerating permitting, grids, boosting storage and reducing systems costs. These efforts will help bring down energy costs and so support industry and households.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/1854/oj/eng>

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1747/oj/eng>; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1760/oj/eng>

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en

⁽⁴⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/affordable-energy_en