

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000829/25
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(24 February 2025)**

Subject: Promoting cheaper energy to reduce inflation

Economists point out that high energy costs will put the economies of many countries in the EU under considerable pressure. Mario Draghi, Italy's former prime minister and former European Central Bank president, stressed that 'electricity prices in all EU countries have increased compared to last year and are two to three times higher than those in the United States. We must lower energy prices.'

In addition, the European Commission predicts that growth in the EU will not exceed 0.9% this year. What is more, EU officials have publicly expressed the view that 'Europe's energy deficit, combined with the end to the supply of Russian gas via Ukraine and Trump's threats of tariffs on imports from the EU are creating new inflationary pressures'.

Based on the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What measures does it intend to take to rein in these pressures?
2. Will it proceed with setting a single electricity price for the whole of the EU, in order to significantly reduce inflation?

Submitted: 24.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(16 May 2025)**

On 26 February 2025, the Commission presented the action plan for Affordable Energy ⁽¹⁾ together with the Clean Industrial Deal. The action plan for Affordable Energy is to reduce energy costs for industry and households and help build a genuine Energy Union that delivers competitiveness, security, decarbonisation, and a just transition.

It sets out eight concrete measures across four pillars for immediate concerted action by the Commission, Member States and industry to lower energy costs, complete the Energy Union, attract investments and ensure delivery. The implementation of this Action Plan will enable the EU to fast-track the benefits of the clean transition, passing on to end users the benefits of cheaper energy. More specifically, taken together measures of this Action Plan will translate into a drop in the EU's fossil fuel import bill year after year towards EUR 130 billion per year by 2030 ⁽²⁾. In addition to the action plan, the Commission will develop a Citizens Energy Package to increase citizens' participation in the energy transition and strengthen the social dimension of the Energy Union.

Reducing electricity bills is a key priority. While ensuring fair and competitive electricity prices across the EU is essential, setting a single electricity price for the entire EU would not reflect national energy generation mix, infrastructure costs, and supply and demand dynamics. Instead, the focus is on strengthening market integration, improving grid interconnections, and fostering a more efficient and resilient internal electricity market that benefits all consumers. Further energy market integration could increase the already EUR 34 billion in benefits for Europeans each year to EUR 40-43 billion per year by 2030 ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/affordable-energy_en.

⁽²⁾ Ibid, p. 5.

⁽³⁾ Ibid, p. 4.