

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001440/25
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(9 April 2025)**

Subject: Gas supply

If more and more customers disconnect their gas supply, the costs of operating the networks will have to be passed on to the remaining customers.

The Commission is asked to answer each of the following questions separately:

1. Has the Commission made estimates of when and in which regions of the EU the operation of a gas heating system is expected to become uneconomical, or when and where it will no longer be worthwhile for network operators or gas suppliers to supply to final customers? If so, could the Commission please indicate the regions and dates. If not, why not?
2. Can the Commission say as of when, at the earliest, gas heating could become uneconomical in some EU regions, and as of when, at the earliest, it could no longer be worthwhile for some network operators or gas suppliers to supply final customers in some EU regions? If so, as of when? If not, why not?
3. When and how will the uneconomical nature of the supply of gas have an impact on the EU budget?

Submitted: 9.4.2025

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

The heating transition takes place at varying speeds across European regions. Whilst national, regional and local authorities are at the forefront of the transition, European law creates a regulatory framework to facilitate this change.

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive ⁽¹⁾ requires Member States to develop policies and measures to decarbonise heating and cooling in buildings, with a view to a phase out of fossil fuel boilers by 2040.

The Energy Efficiency Directive ⁽²⁾ requires Member States to ensure adoption of local heating and cooling plans at municipal level as of October 2025.

Other policies introduce pricing incentives to decarbonise, such as the proposed revision of the Energy Tax Directive or the Emission Trading System 2 ⁽³⁾ that includes fuel use in buildings.

The latter is accompanied by a Social Climate Fund to alleviate the social and economic impacts, ensuring a fair transition. To ensure that gas networks adapt in the most cost-effective manner the Hydrogen and Gas Markets Package ⁽⁴⁾ requires regional decommissioning plans when a significant decrease in gas demand is expected as of August 2026.

The heating and cooling plans, as well as the decommissioning plans will provide details of the envisaged phase-out of natural gas across European regions.

In addition, the European Commission commissioned a study ⁽⁵⁾ analysing scenarios for fossil fuel replacement, including that of natural gas in heating.

Any cost implications of changing infrastructure needs would be addressed through financing regimes as they apply at the time in question.

⁽¹⁾ Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

⁽²⁾ Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) 2023/1791.

⁽³⁾ Emission Trading System 2 (EU) 2023/959.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 57 of Directive (EU) 2024/1788.

⁽⁵⁾ Potentials and levels for the electrification of space heating in buildings (<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2ae4481d-8f3b-11ee-8aa6-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>).