

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002441/25
to the Commission
Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)
(17 June 2025)**

Subject: Rural proofing and wood-burning stoves

The Commission is working on the regulation derived from Regulation (EU) 2024/1781 on ecodesign requirements for sustainable products (the Ecodesign Regulation). With regard to wood-fired boilers and built-in fireplaces, there seem to be requirements that may involve adapting facilities and replacing equipment that would reduce their emissions, but also render them inoperative in a power cut (a common occurrence in many rural areas, particularly when there are winter storms), and place a significant financial burden on the poorest families in rural areas, whose average income is barely 75% of the EU average.

This matter seems to be a clear example of the relevance of the introduction in this and many other legislative and policy initiatives of the rural proofing mechanism, which the Commission says it supports. In view of the above:

1. Should the Commission not put its proposal through the rural proofing mechanism with a view to reformulating it to provide for starting conditions that are more in tune with the actual circumstances in rural areas?
2. What plans, timetable, means and instruments does the Commission have for the introduction of the rural proofing mechanism in all its laws, policies and measures?

Submitted: 17.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(2 September 2025)**

The Commission is reviewing Regulation (EU) 2015/1185 ⁽¹⁾ setting ecodesign requirements for solid fuel local space heaters. The review process involves extensive dialogue with stakeholders. One of the objectives of the review process is to assess how pollutant emissions from solid fuel local space heaters could be limited.

The revision is exploring various options to reduce pollutant emissions. Cost considerations will be carefully assessed in accordance with the Better Regulation guidelines and toolbox.

In the review process, the Commission will also carry out rural proofing pursuant to the Better Regulation guidelines and toolbox, including in the impact assessment ⁽²⁾.

The Commission has not reached the stage of a formal proposal for revision of the regulation. Finally, it is important to note that any revised regulation would only be applicable to new products placed on the market.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/1185/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ https://rural-vision.europa.eu/action-plan/cross-cutting/rural-proofing_en.